

The book cover features a dark, monochromatic illustration in a woodblock print style. The background is filled with large, swirling, hypnotic patterns. In the foreground, a group of children in school uniforms stands in a line, looking upwards with expressions of shock and fear. A large, stylized red spiral graphic is positioned behind the title.

SPIRAL INTO HORROR

UZUMAKI

JUNJI ITO

A black and white illustration of a person's face, rendered in a stylized, horror-themed manner. The face is partially obscured by a large, spiral-shaped eye that dominates the right side of the image. A hand is shown holding a spiral shell near the eye. The background features vertical, wavy lines and other spiral motifs, creating a dreamlike and unsettling atmosphere.

SPIRAL INTO HORROR

UZUMAKI

DELUXE EDITION

JUNJI ITO



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THIS IS
KUROUZU-
CHO,
WHERE I
GREW
UP...

I WOULD
LIKE TO
SHARE
WITH
YOU...

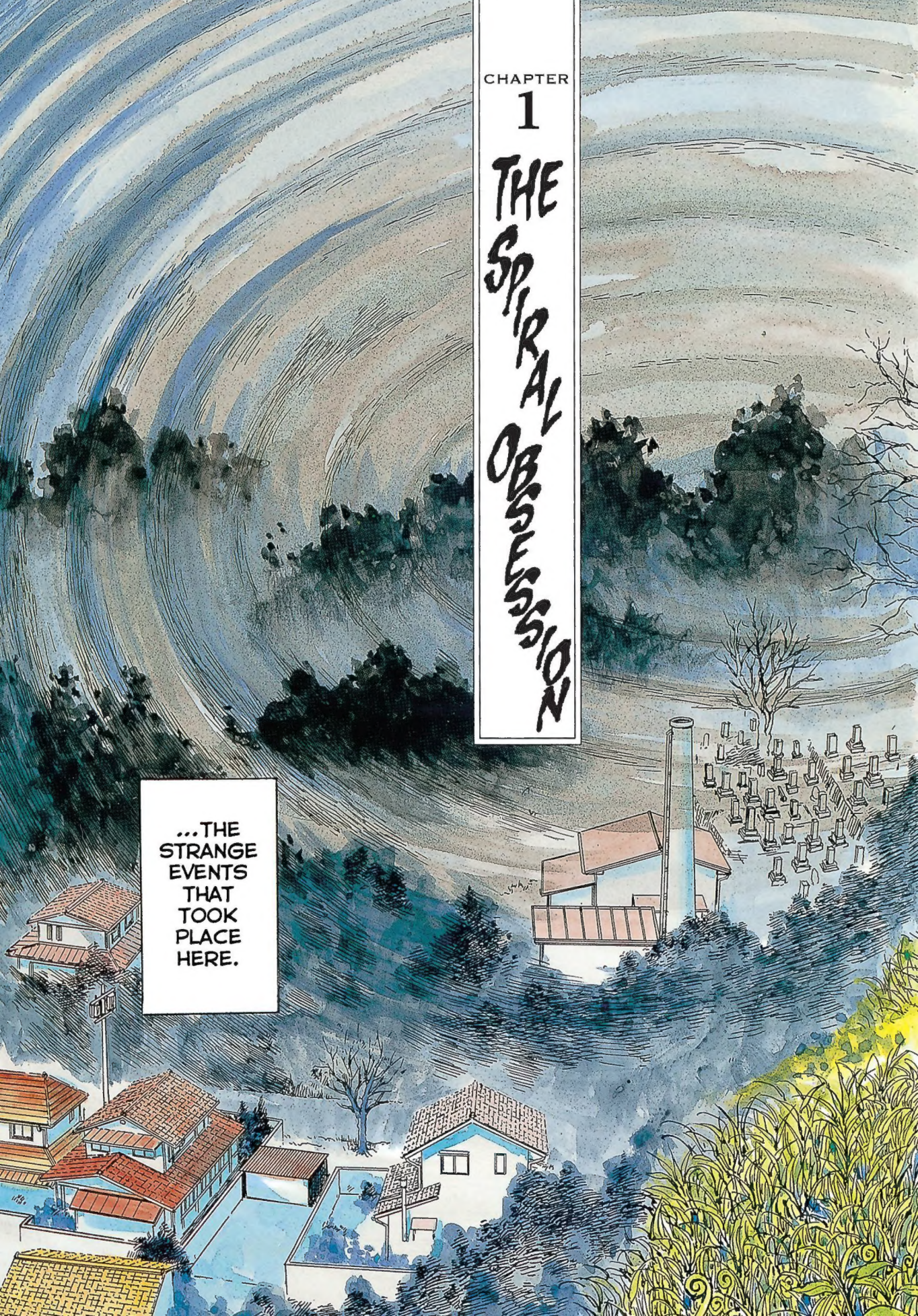


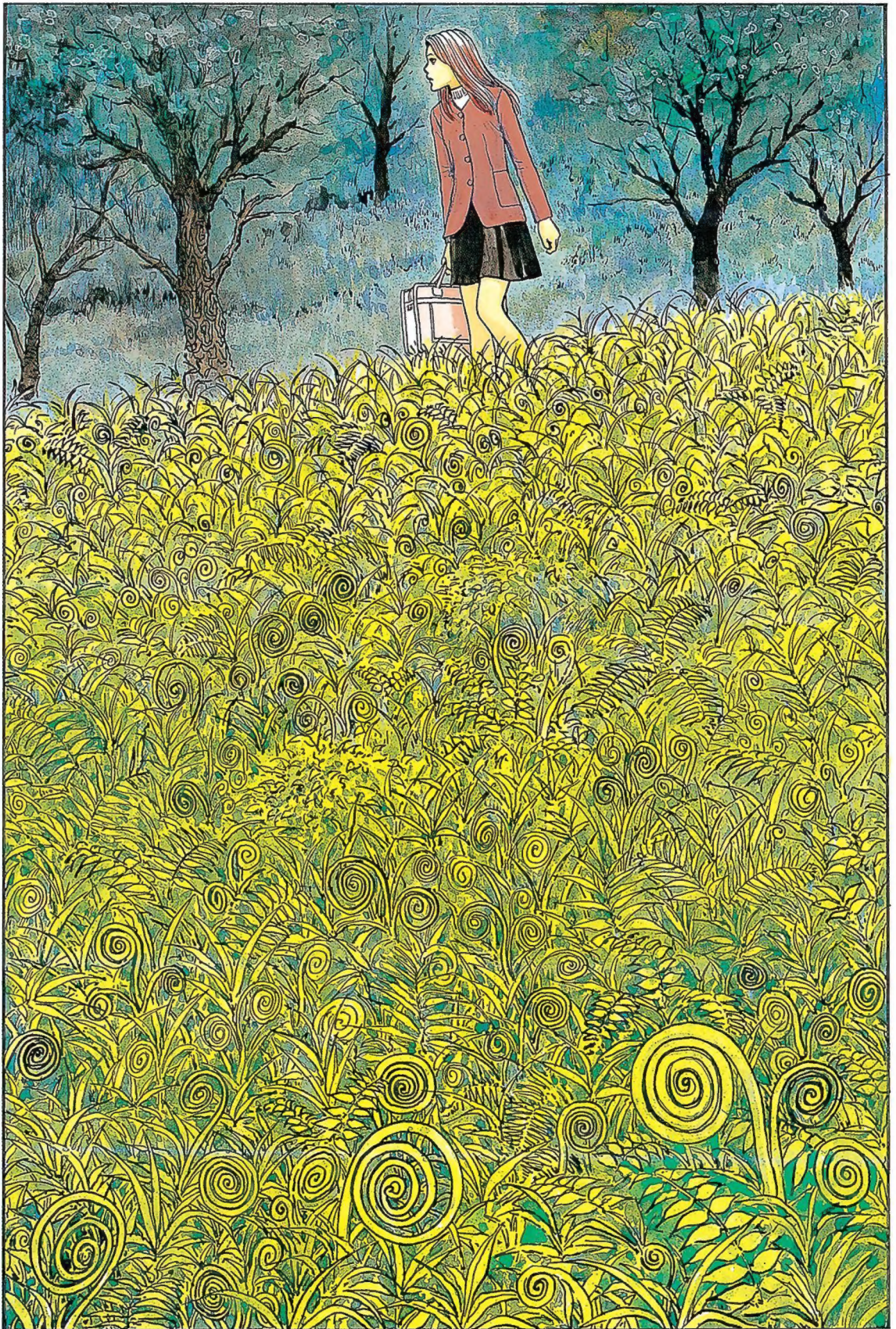
CHAPTER

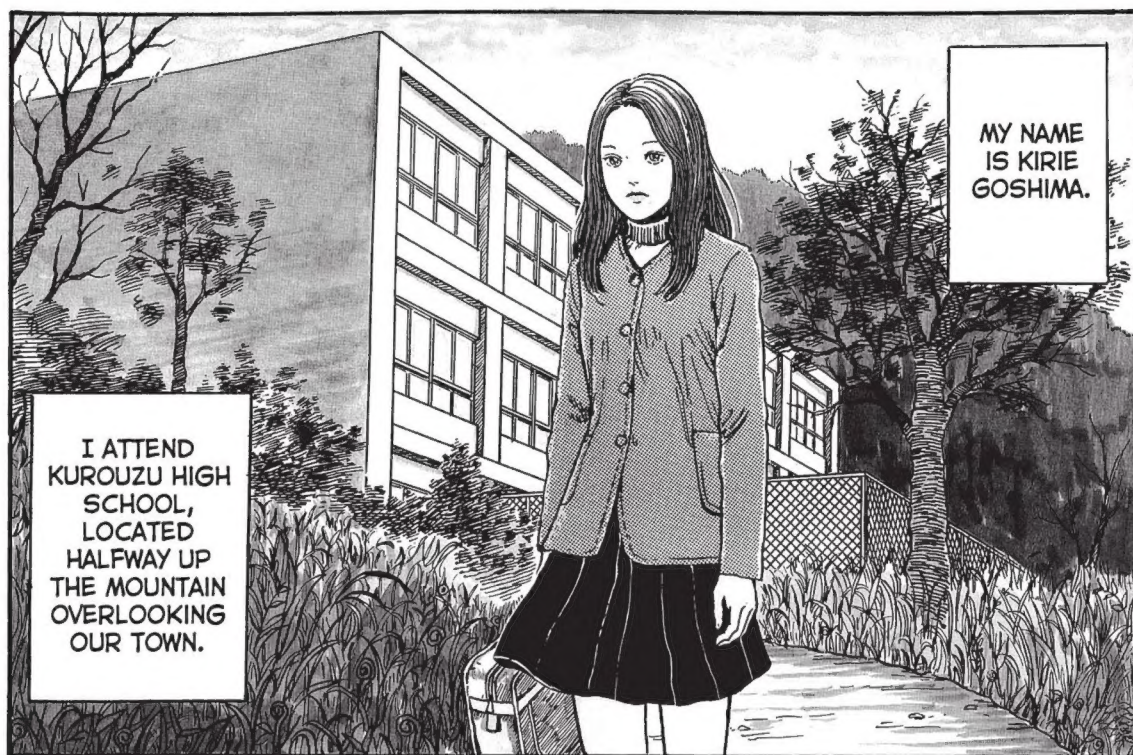
1

THE SPIRAL OBSESSION

...THE
STRANGE
EVENTS
THAT
TOOK
PLACE
HERE.

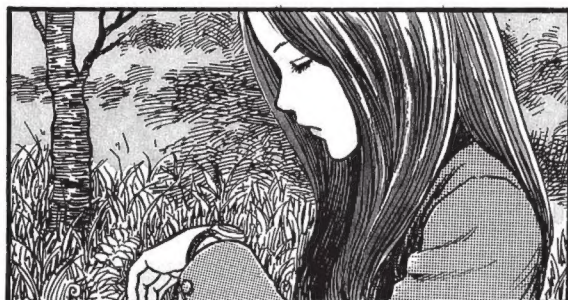






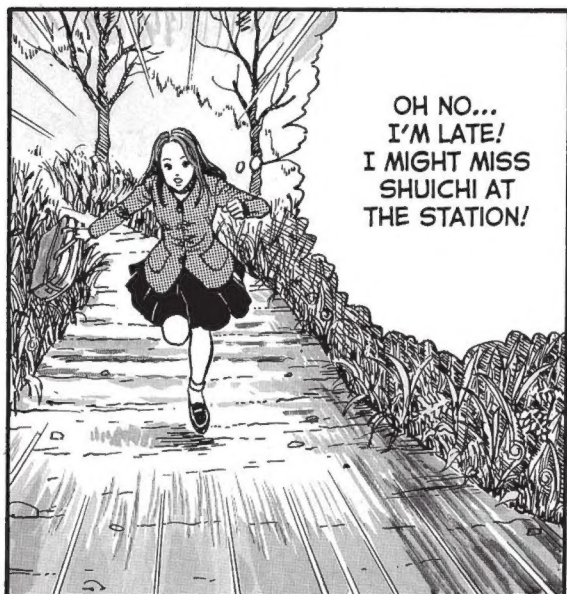
MY NAME
IS KIRIE
GOSHIMA.

I ATTEND
KUROUZU HIGH
SCHOOL,
LOCATED
HALFWAY UP
THE MOUNTAIN
OVERLOOKING
OUR TOWN.

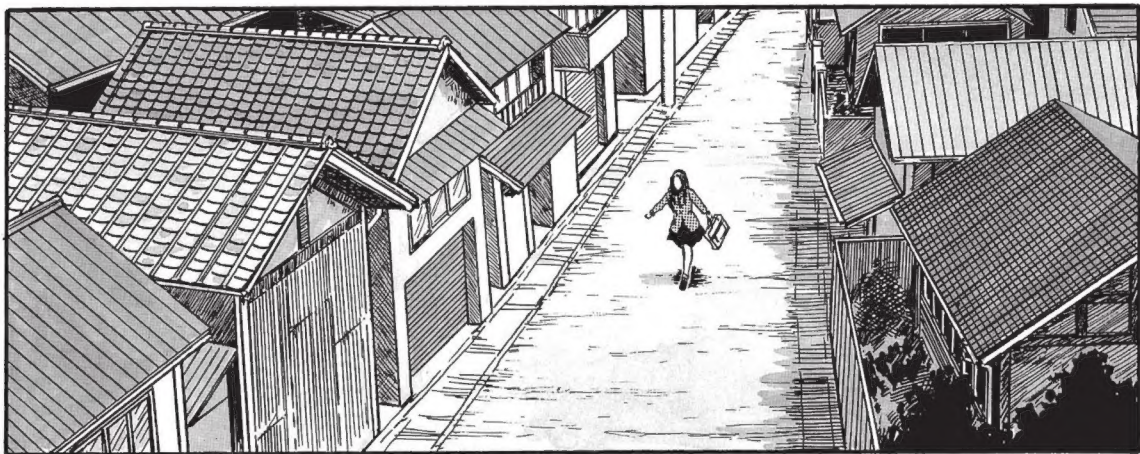
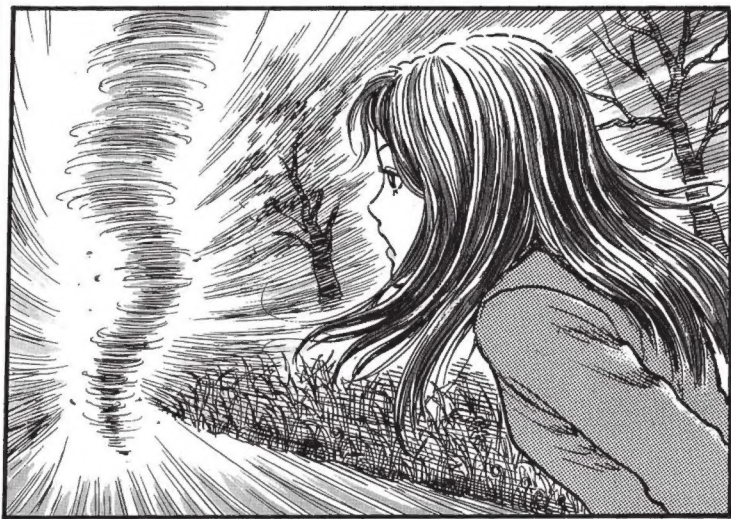
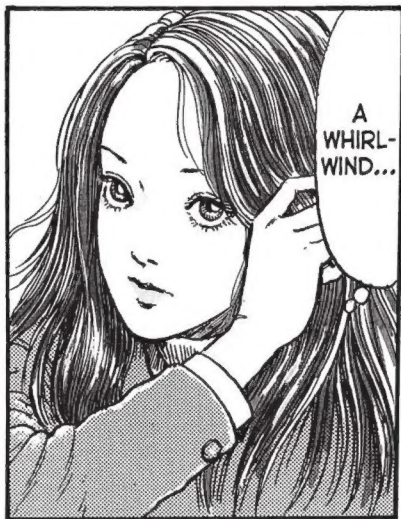


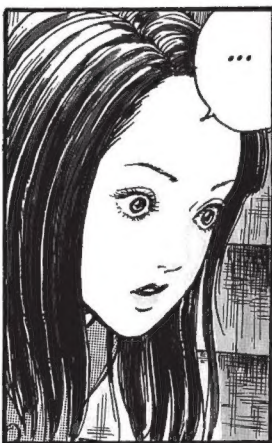
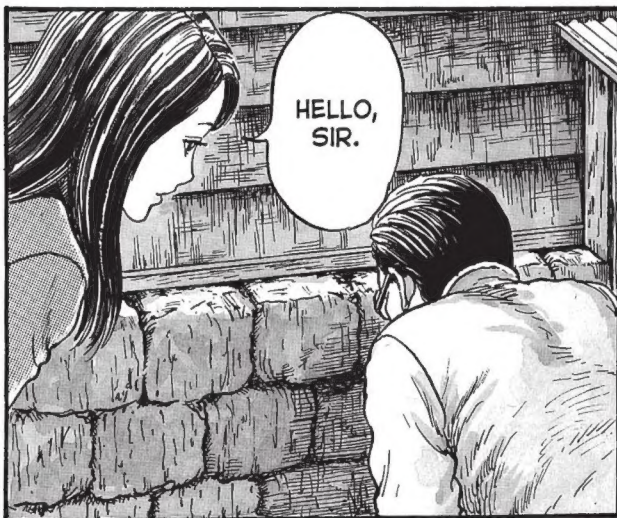
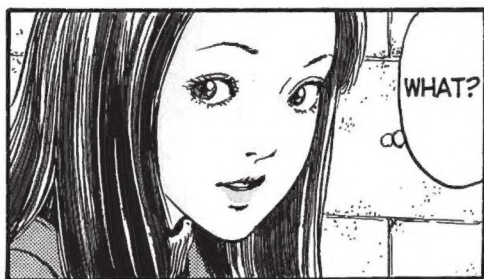
...IN
THE
CENTRAL
DISTRICT
OF THE
TOWN.

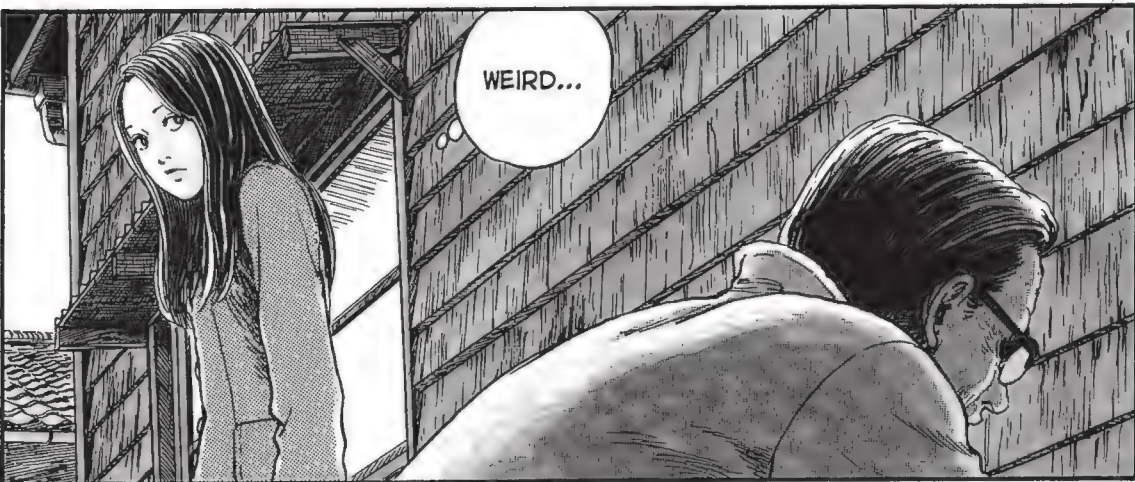
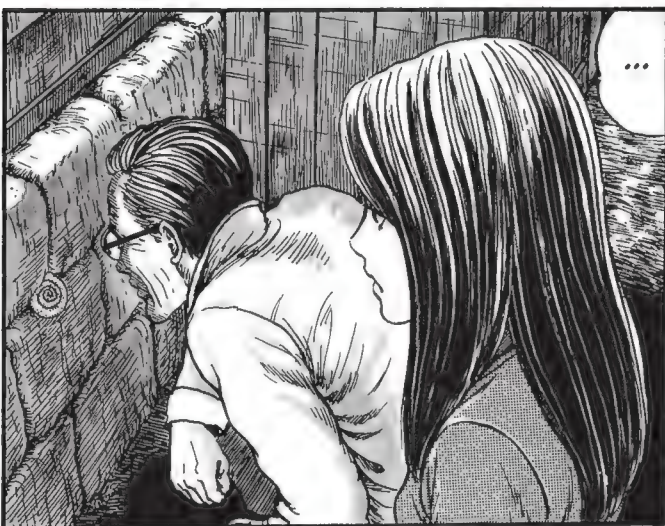
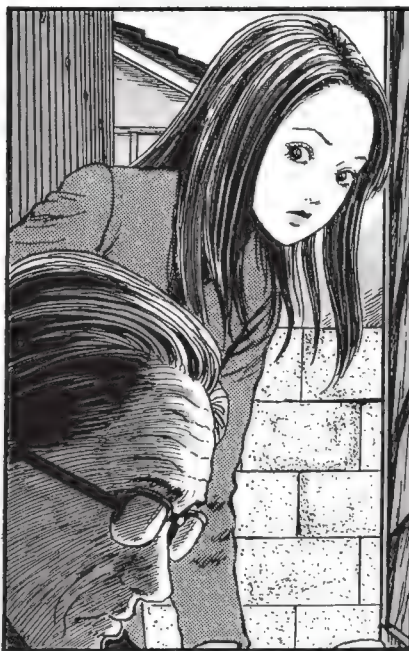
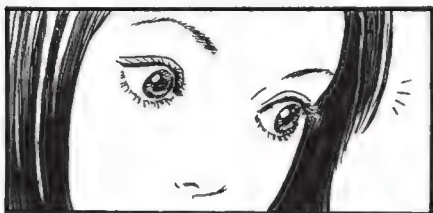
I LIVE WITH
MY FATHER
WHO IS A
POTTER, MY
MOTHER
AND MY
YOUNGER
BROTHER...

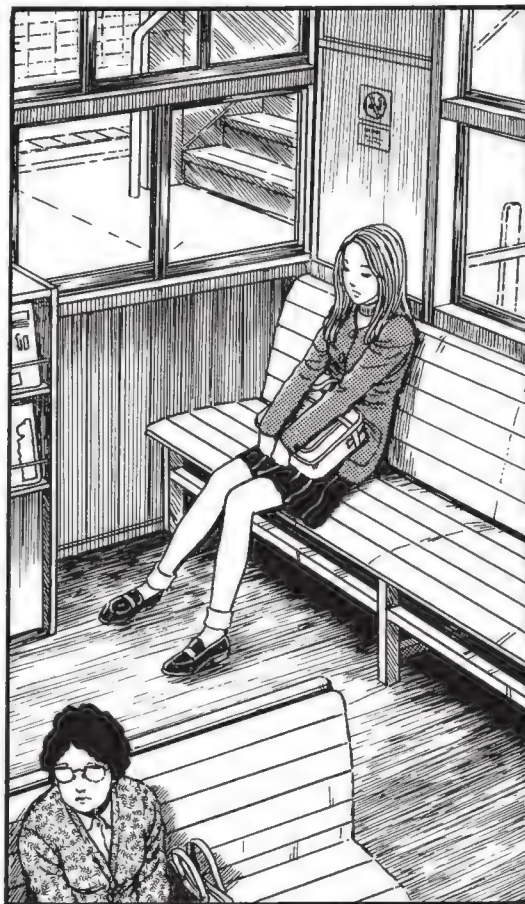
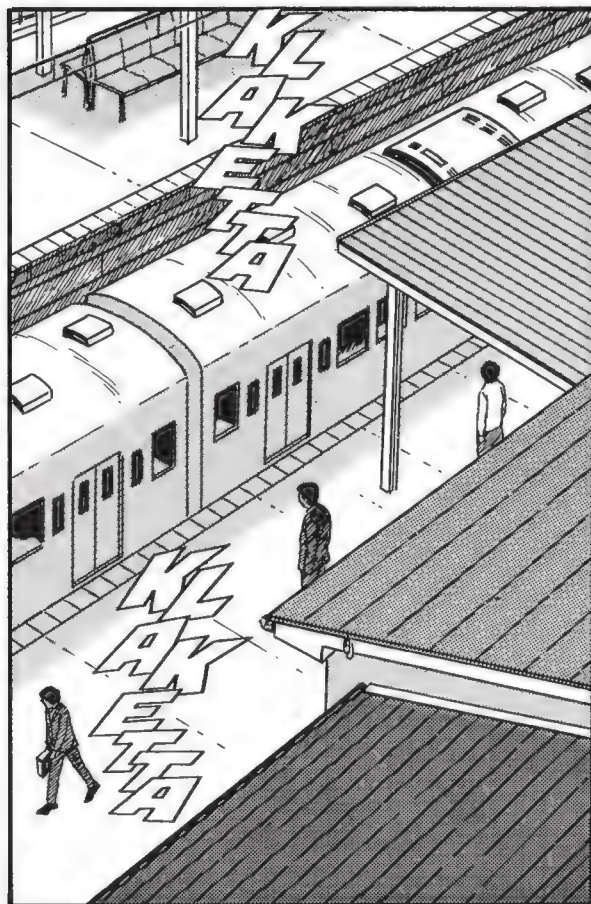
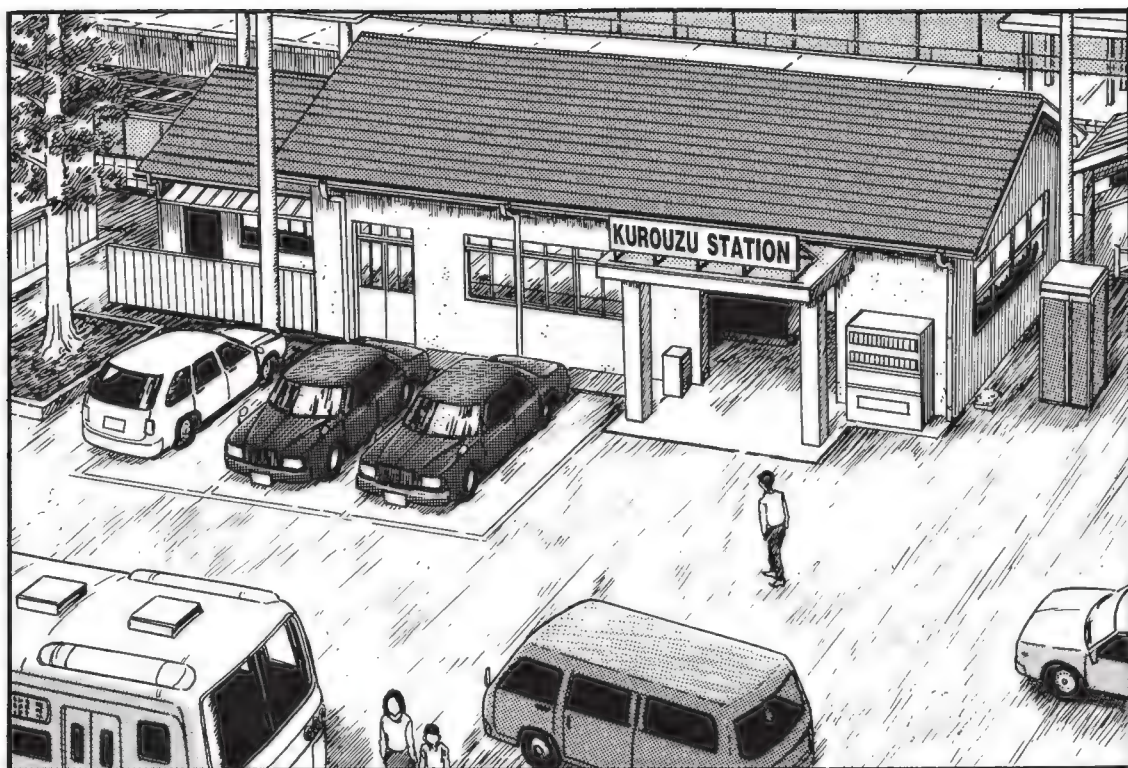


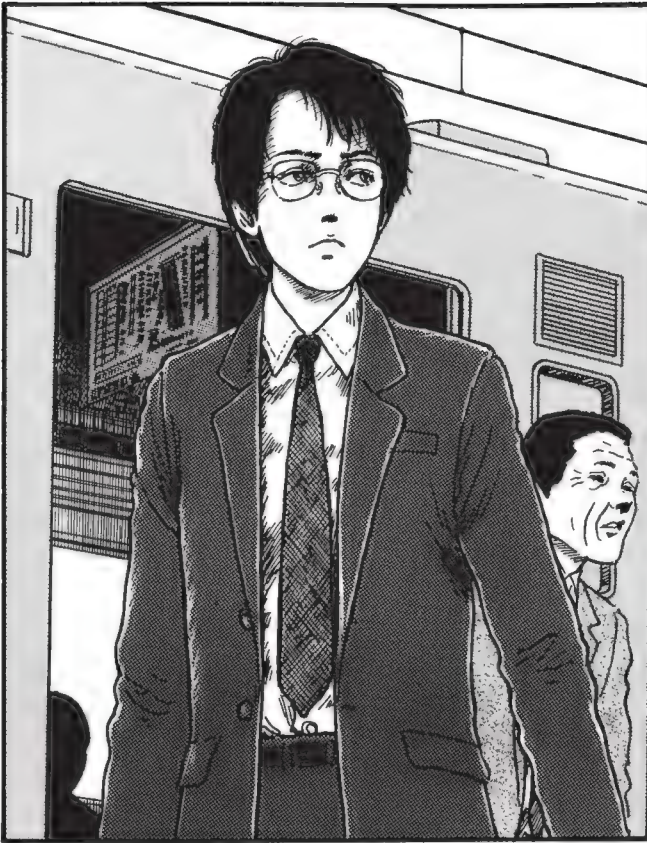
OH NO...
I'M LATE!
I MIGHT MISS
SHUICHI AT
THE STATION!

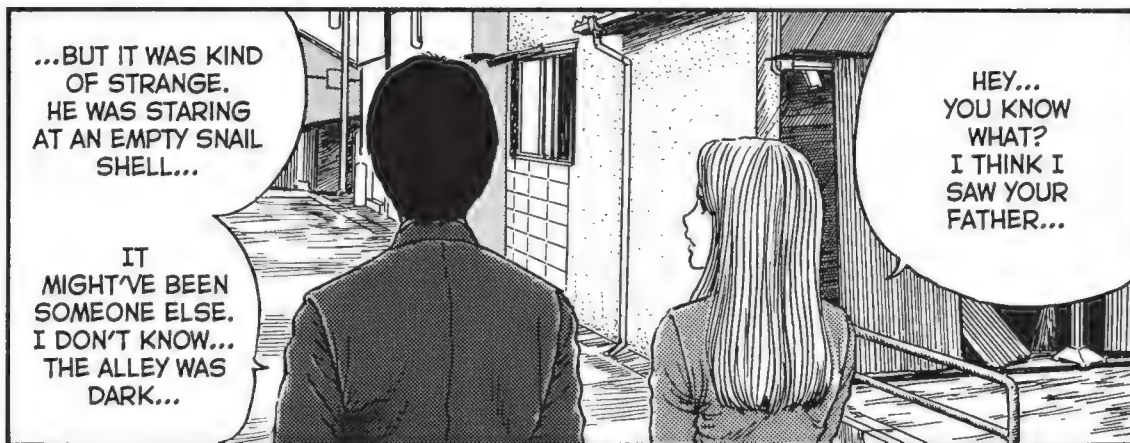
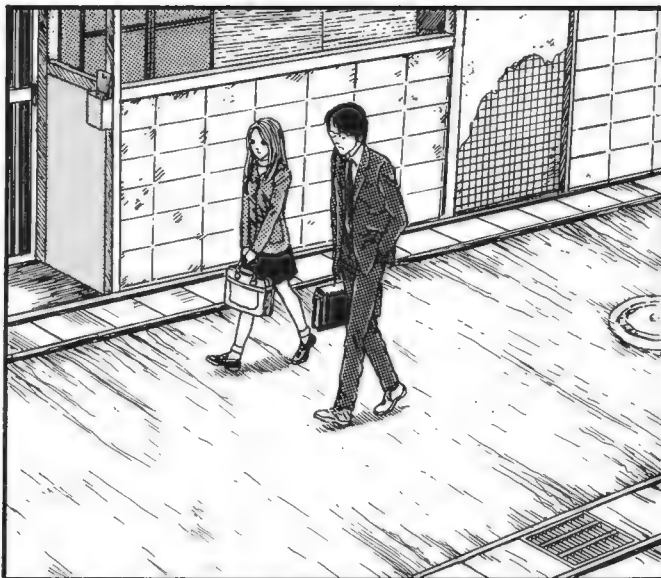
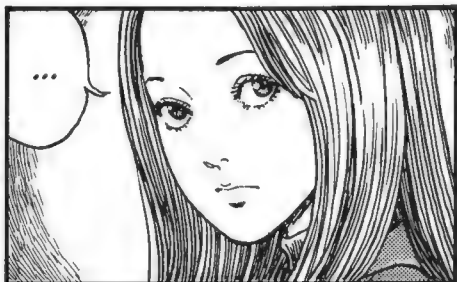
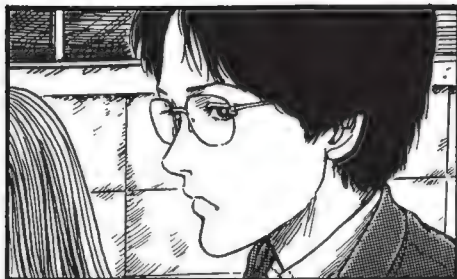


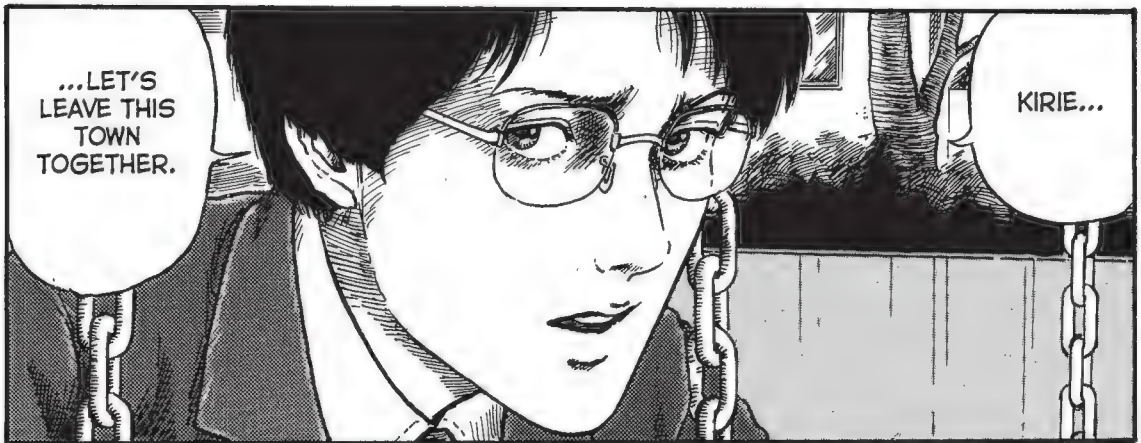
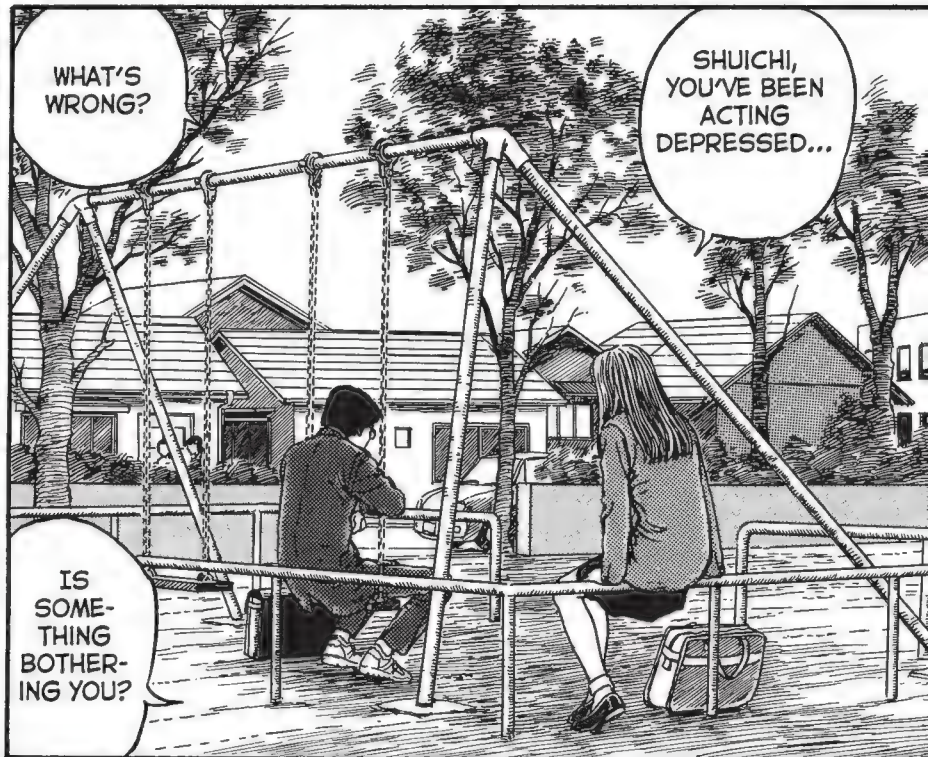
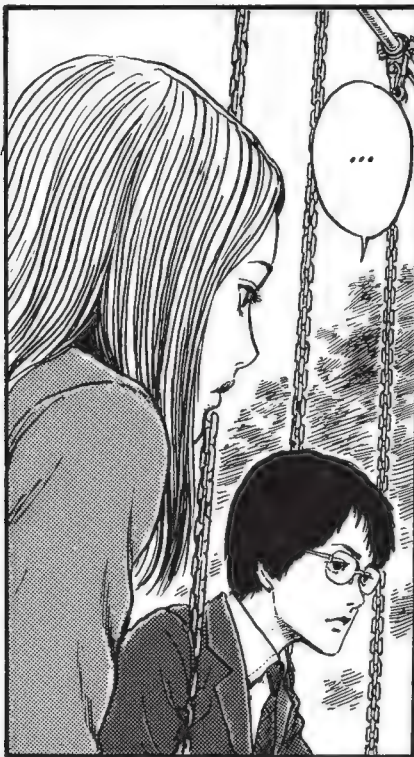


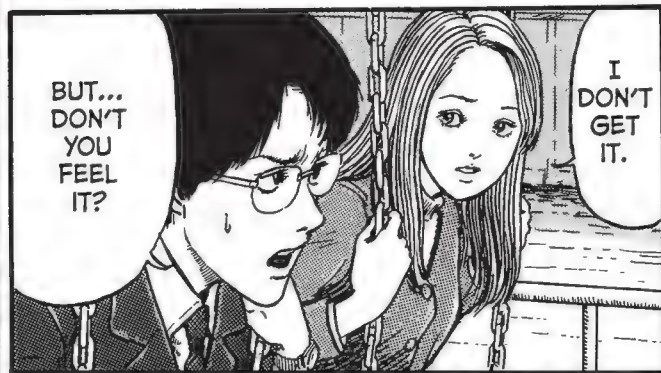


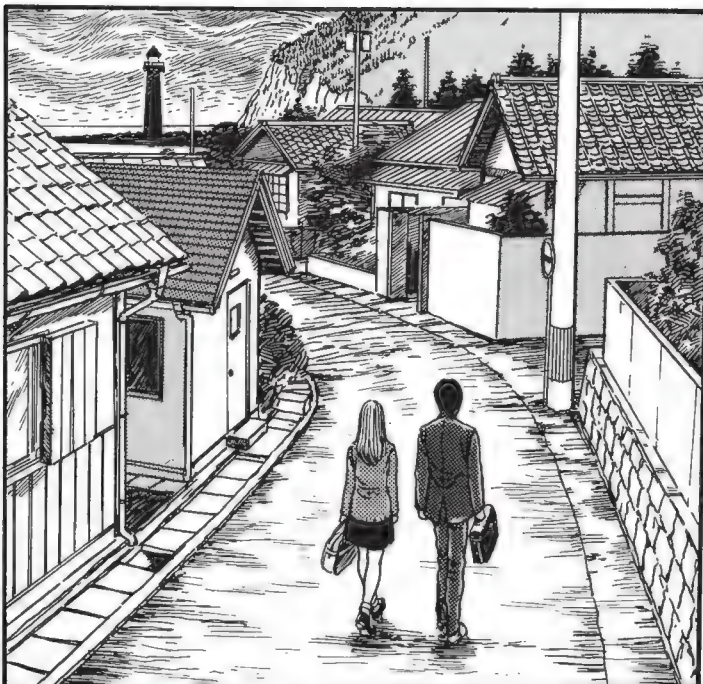














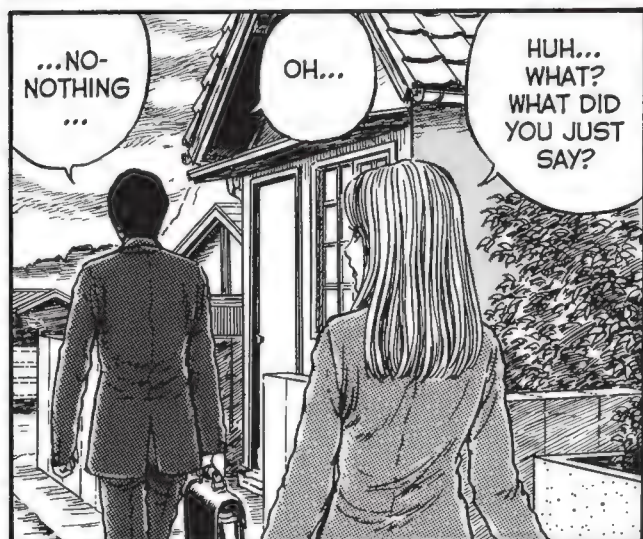
AND THAT
BLACK LIGHT-
HOUSE...
IT'S EVIL.

THE
OCEAN
LOOKS
NOTHING LIKE
THIS FROM
MIDORIYAMA-SHI,
WHERE I GO
TO SCHOOL.



SPIRALS...
THIS
TOWN
IS
CONTAMI-
NATED
WITH
SPIRALS...

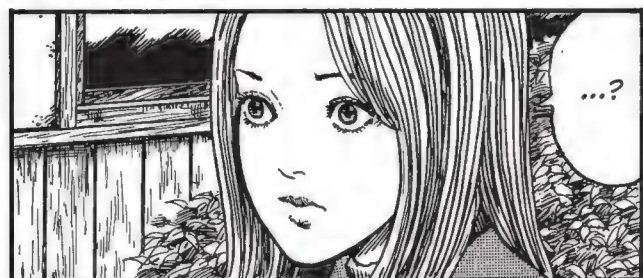
YES,
WINDING
...I'M
GETTING
WOUND
UP...



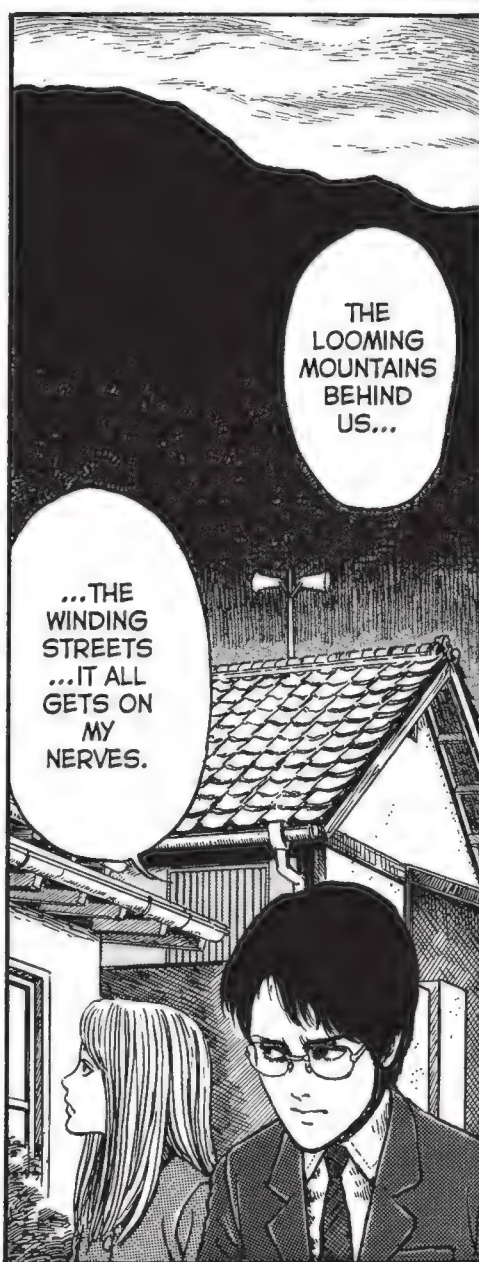
...NO-
NOTHING
...

OH...

HUH...
WHAT?
WHAT DID
YOU JUST
SAY?



...?



THE
LOOMING
MOUNTAINS
BEHIND
US...

...THE
WINDING
STREETS
...IT ALL
GETS ON
MY
NERVES.

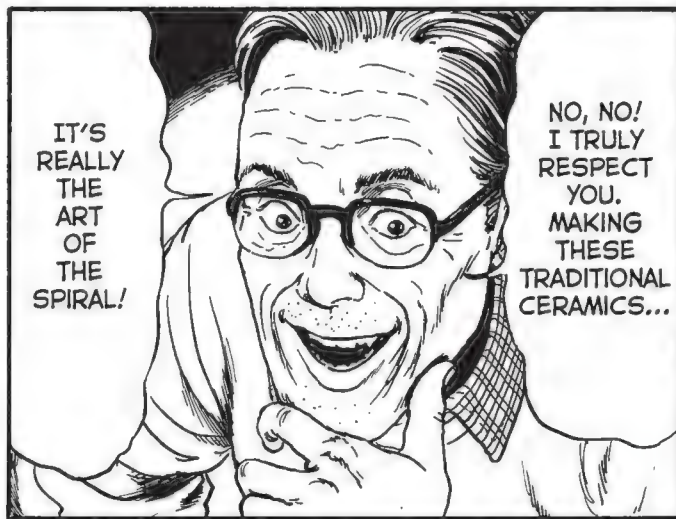


MR. GOSHIMA, YOU'RE ALWAYS WORKING SO HARD...

WELL, YOU KNOW...



THE NEXT DAY, SHUICHI'S FATHER VISITED MY FATHER AT WORK.



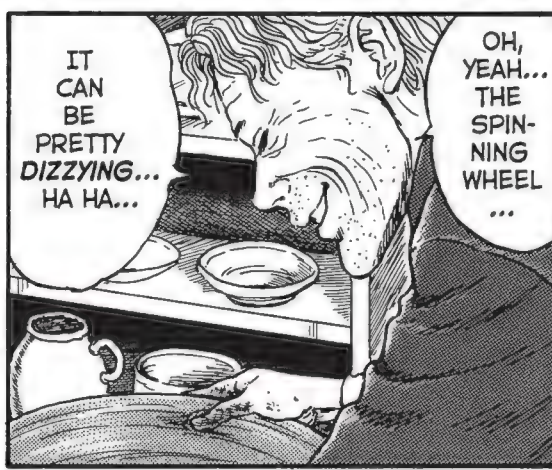
IT'S REALLY THE ART OF THE SPIRAL!

NO, NO! I TRULY RESPECT YOU. MAKING THESE TRADITIONAL CERAMICS...



IT'S NOT EASY BEING A CRAFTSMAN.

...IT'S MORE "WORKING SLOW" THAN WORKING HARD.



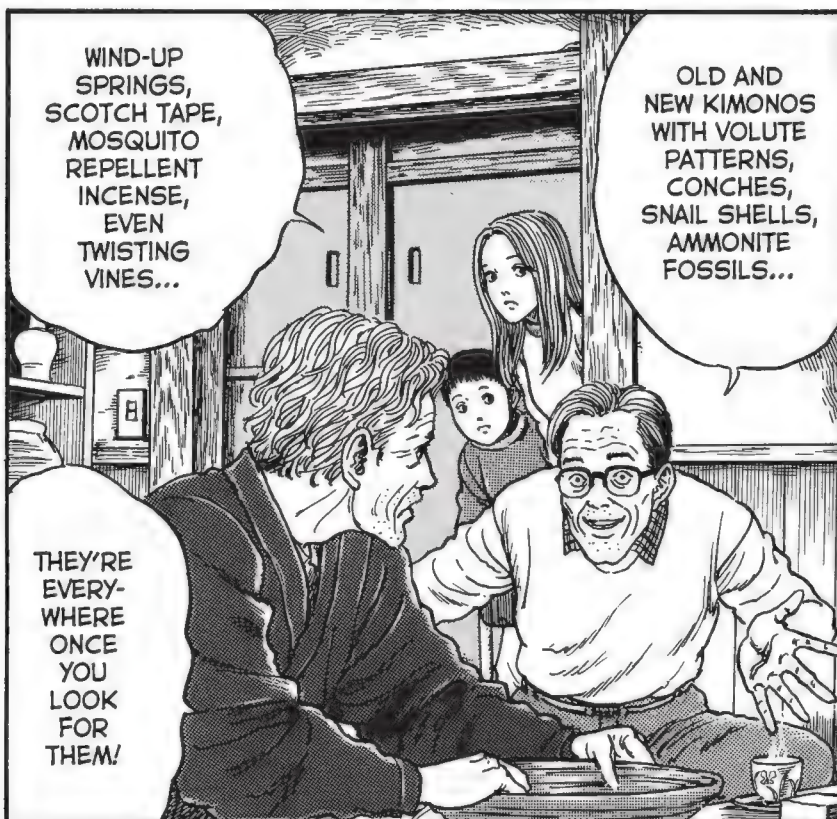
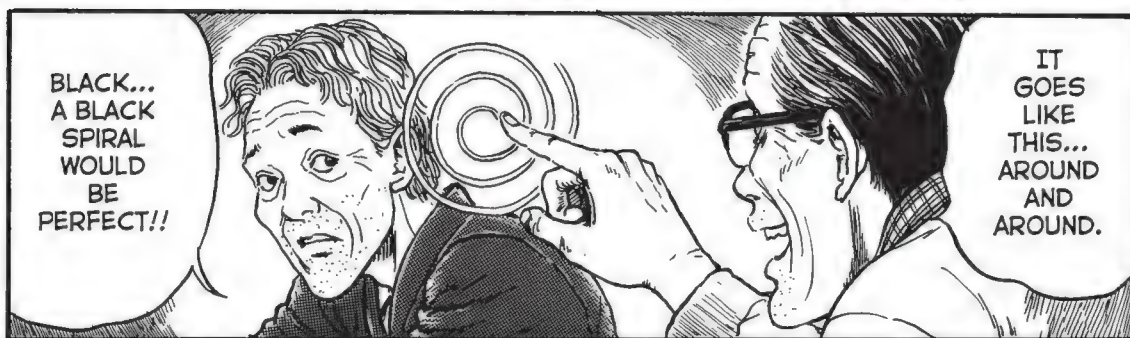
IT CAN BE PRETTY DIZZYING... HA HA...

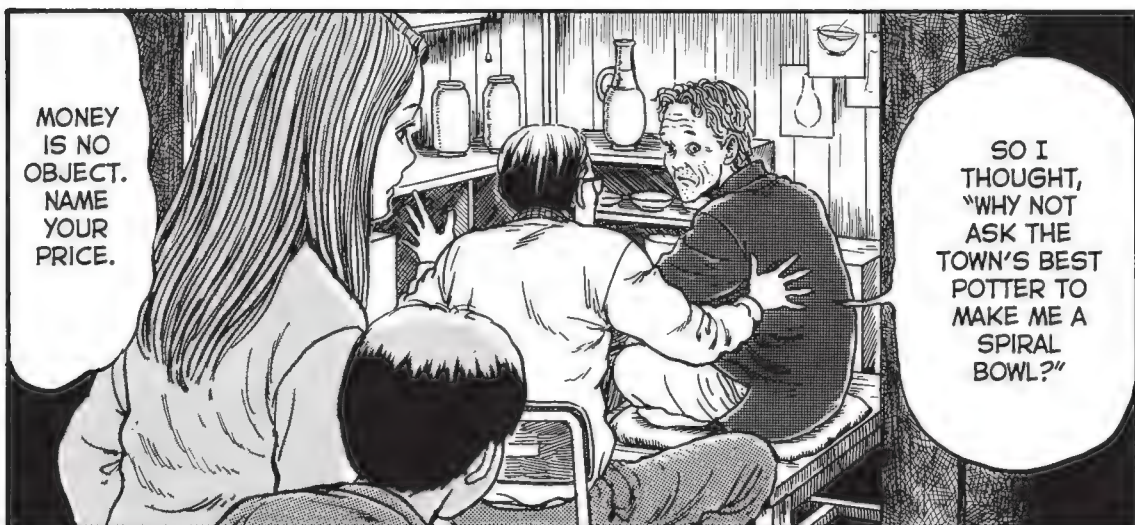
OH, YEAH... THE SPINNING WHEEL ...



THE ART OF THE SPIRAL?

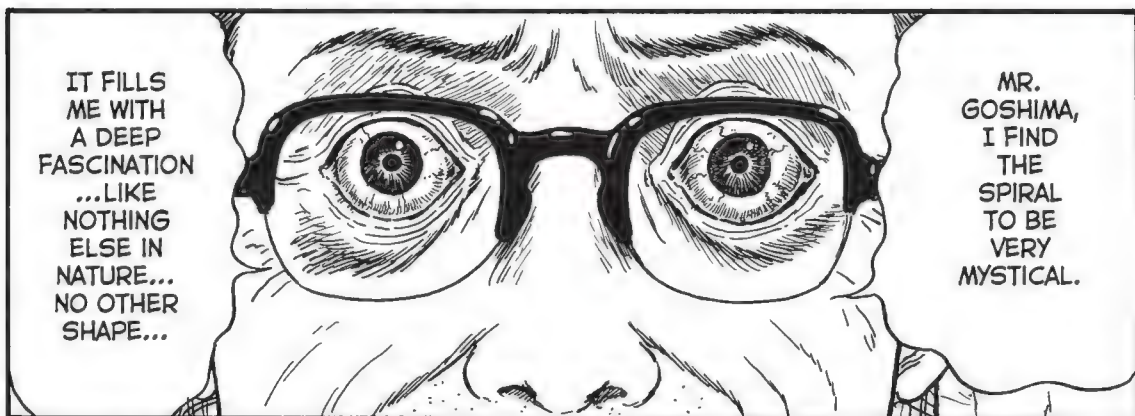
I'M SORRY?





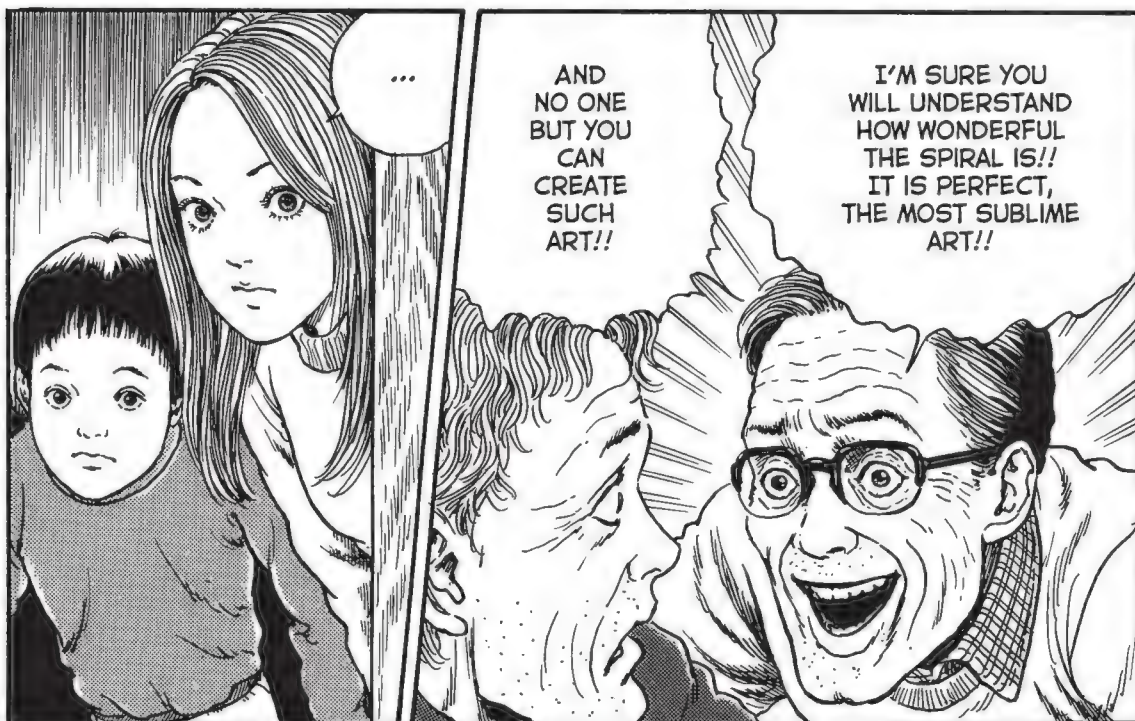
MONEY
IS NO
OBJECT.
NAME
YOUR
PRICE.

SO I
THOUGHT,
"WHY NOT
ASK THE
TOWN'S BEST
POTTER TO
MAKE ME A
SPIRAL
BOWL?"



IT FILLS
ME WITH
A DEEP
FASCINATION
...LIKE
NOTHING
ELSE IN
NATURE...
NO OTHER
SHAPE...

MR.
GOSHIMA,
I FIND
THE
SPIRAL
TO BE
VERY
MYSTICAL.



...

AND
NO ONE
BUT YOU
CAN
CREATE
SUCH
ART!!

I'M SURE YOU
WILL UNDERSTAND
HOW WONDERFUL
THE SPIRAL IS!!
IT IS PERFECT,
THE MOST SUBLIME
ART!!



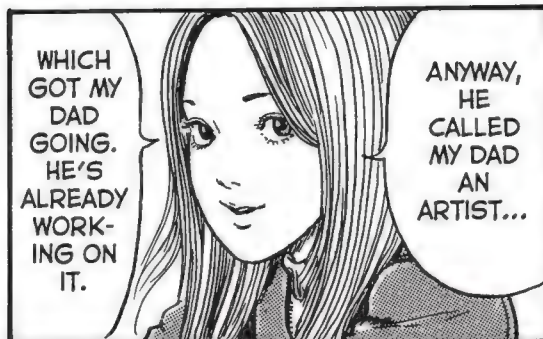
WHY WOULD HE BE
FIXATED
WITH
SPIRALS?

I'M
SORRY
YOU SAW
THAT.
HE'S
BEEN
WEIRD
LATELY.



UMM...
YEAH...
HE
FREAKED
ME OUT A
LITTLE.

DIDN'T
MY DAD
VISIT YOUR
HOUSE
YESTERDAY?



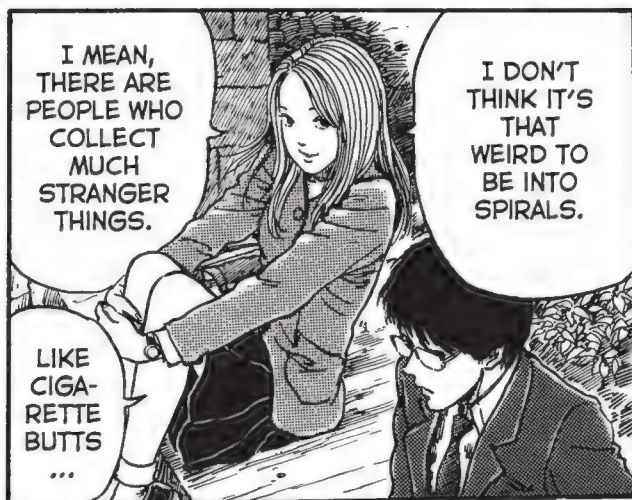
WHICH
GOT MY
DAD
GOING.
HE'S
ALREADY
WORK-
ING ON
IT.

ANYWAY,
HE
CALLED
MY DAD
AN
ARTIST...



HE
STOPPED
GOING
TO
WORK. NOW HE
JUST SPENDS
ALL DAY IN HIS
STUDY...

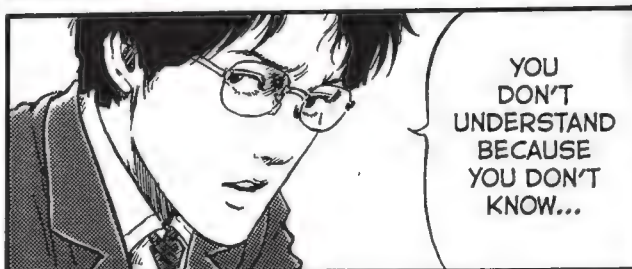
...HOW
ABNORMAL
HIS
OBSESSION'S
BECOME.



I MEAN,
THERE ARE
PEOPLE WHO
COLLECT
MUCH
STRANGER
THINGS.

I DON'T
THINK IT'S
THAT
WEIRD TO
BE INTO
SPIRALS.

LIKE
CIGA-
RETTE
BUTTS
...



YOU
DON'T
UNDERSTAND
BECAUSE
YOU DON'T
KNOW...

A black and white illustration of a man with glasses, wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants, sitting on the floor. He is surrounded by a vast, chaotic collection of spiral-shaped objects. In the background, there are large, patterned panels or screens, some with spiral designs and others with floral or geometric patterns. A large, spiral-shaped object hangs from the ceiling. The floor is covered with various spiral-shaped items, including what look like shells, small containers, and tools. The overall scene is a dense, surreal collection of spirals.

...STARING
AT HIS
SPRAWLING
COLLECTION
OF
SPIRALS.

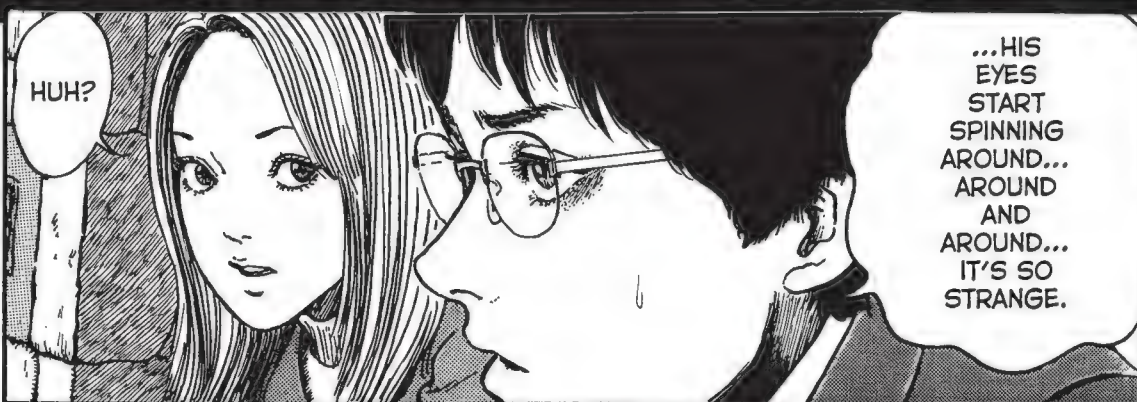


AND
WHAT'S
WEIRD
IS
THAT...

HE
JUST
STARES
INTO
THE
SPIRAL.

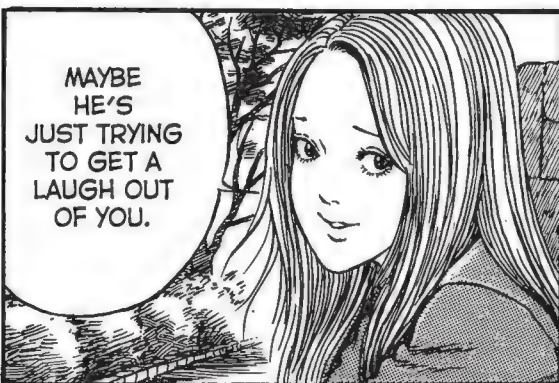


ONCE
HE'S
FIXATED
HE
CAN'T
HEAR
US.



HUH?

...HIS
EYES
START
SPINNING
AROUND...
AROUND
AND
AROUND...
IT'S SO
STRANGE.



MAYBE
HE'S
JUST TRYING
TO GET A
LAUGH OUT
OF YOU.



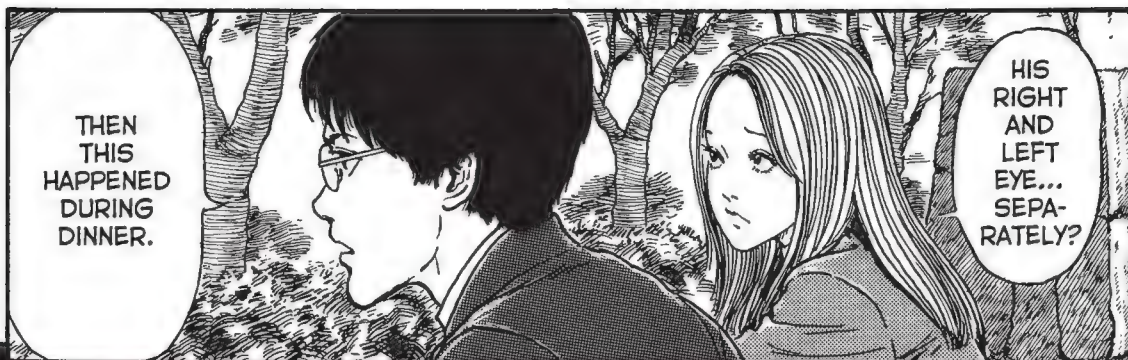
THEY SPIN
LIKE THEY'RE
FOLLOWING
THE SPIRAL.

HIS
EYES
SPIN?



HIS
RIGHT
AND LEFT
EYE MOVE
INDEPENDENTLY
OF EACH
OTHER!

NO,
IT'S
NOT
FUNNY
AT
ALL!!



THEN
THIS
HAPPENED
DURING
DINNER.

HIS
RIGHT
AND
LEFT
EYE...
SEPA-
RATELY?

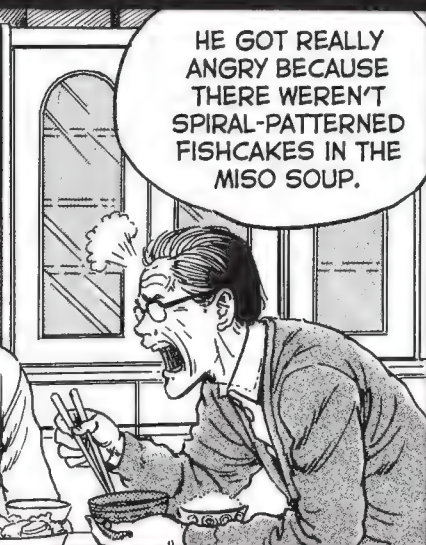


I CAN'T
EAT MISO
WITHOUT
SPIRAL
FISHCAKE!

HMPH!



MY MOM
EXPLAINED THAT
SHE RAN OUT
OF THEM.



HE GOT REALLY
ANGRY BECAUSE
THERE WEREN'T
SPIRAL-PATTERNED
FISHCAKES IN THE
MISO SOUP.



HE WAS
SATISFIED.



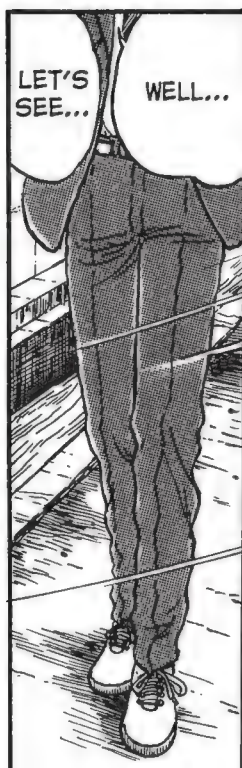
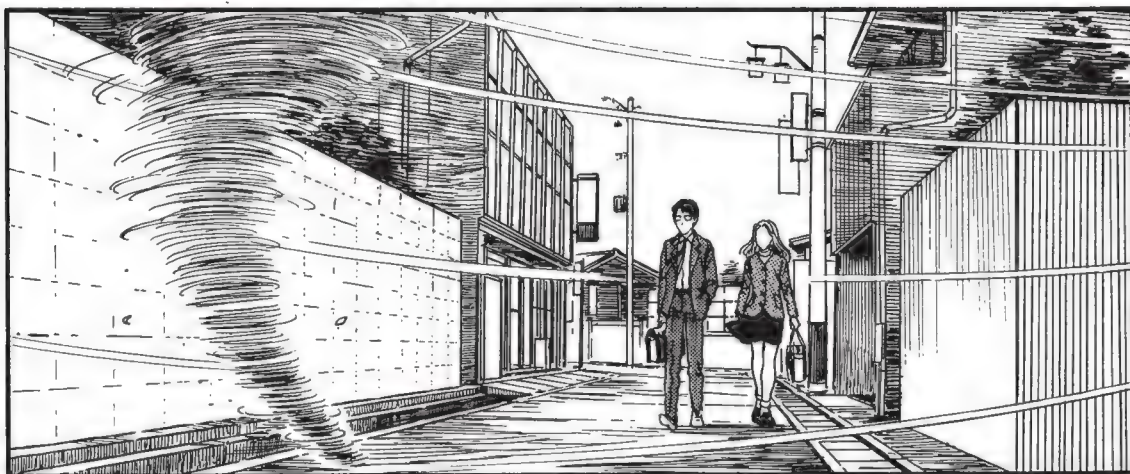
SUDDENLY
HE STARTED
TO STIR THE
MISO, VERY
FAST...

TAK TAK TAK



SHRRRRRRR

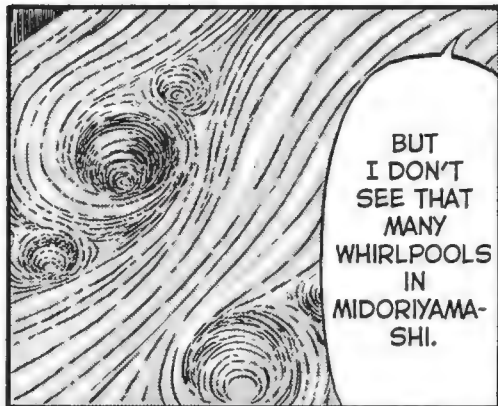




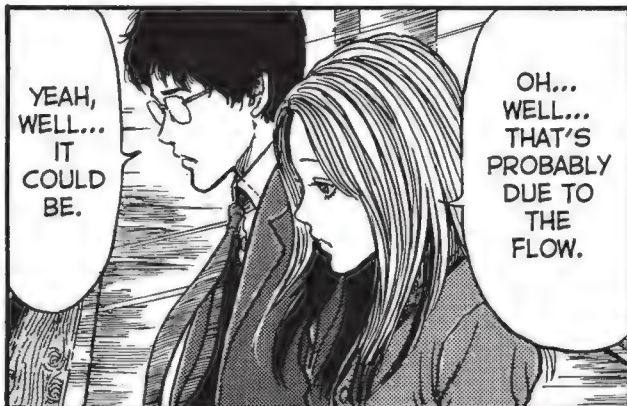


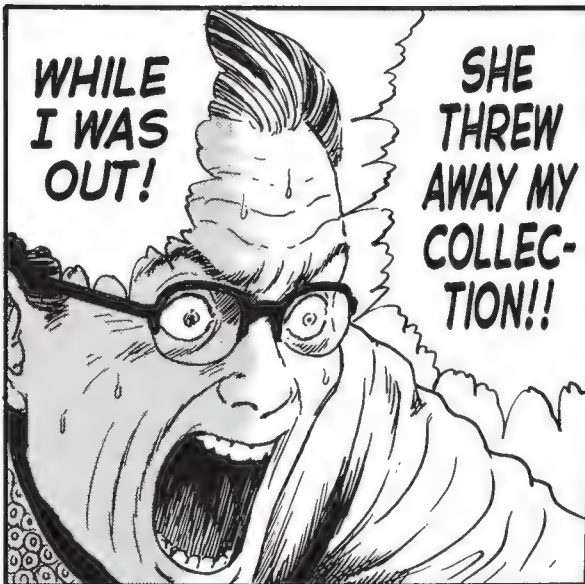
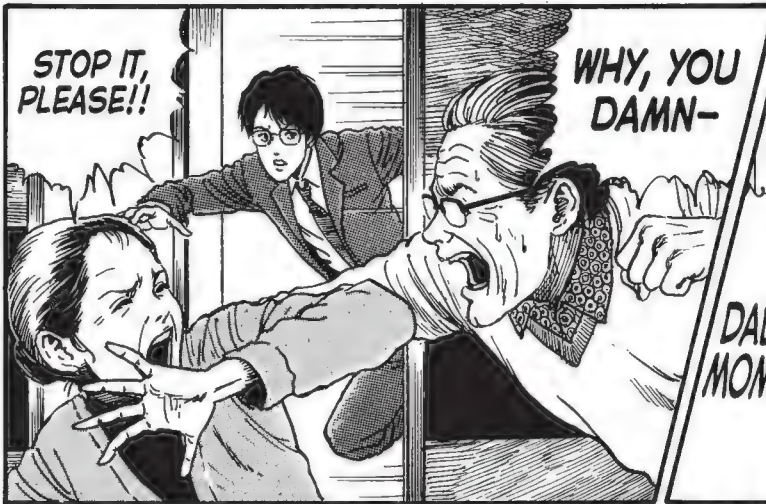
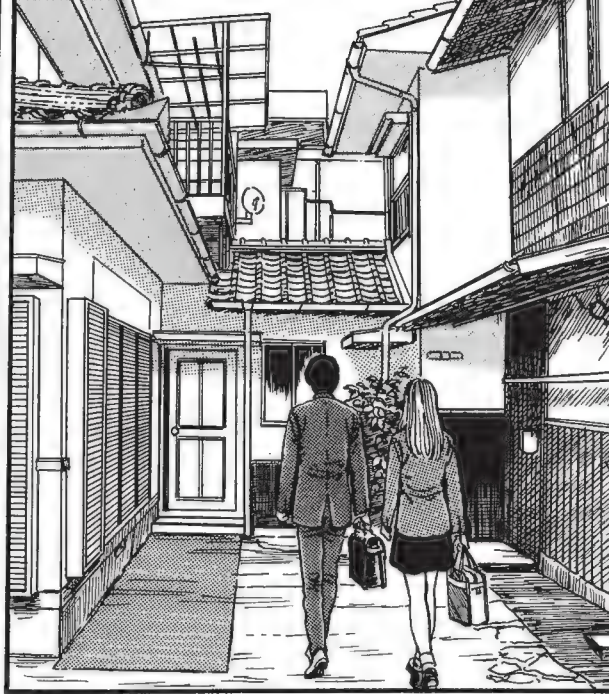
ODD?

LOOK AT THIS STREAM.

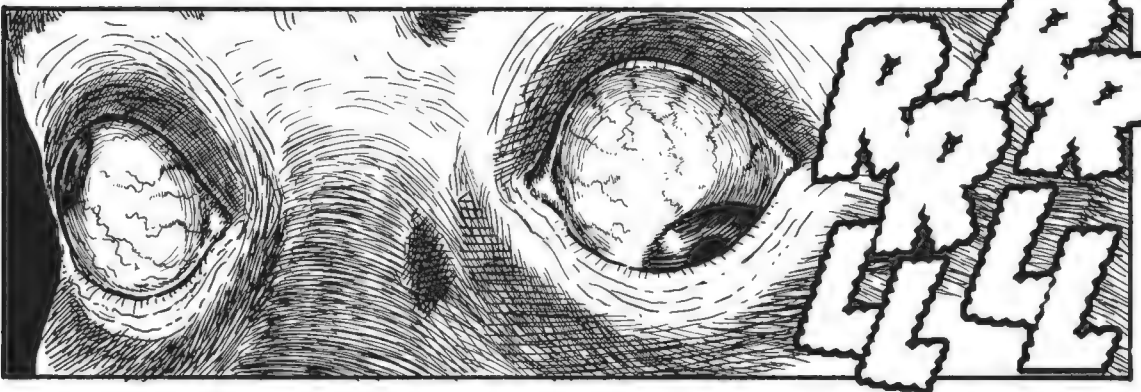
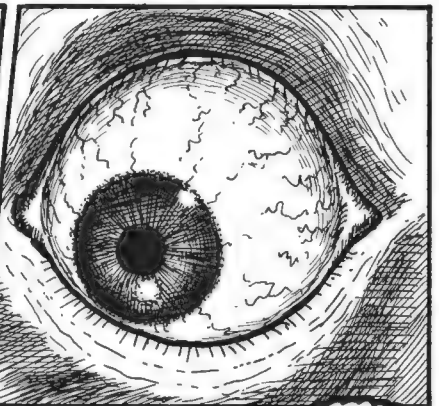
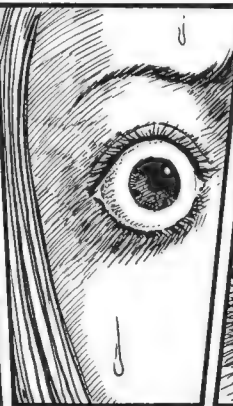
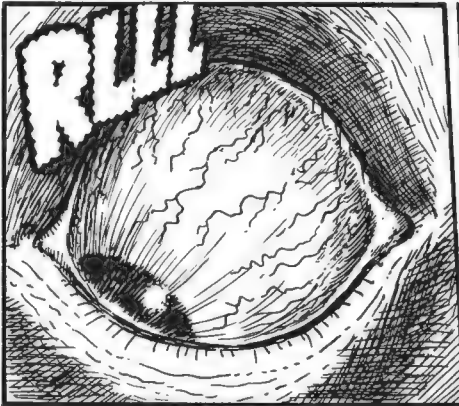
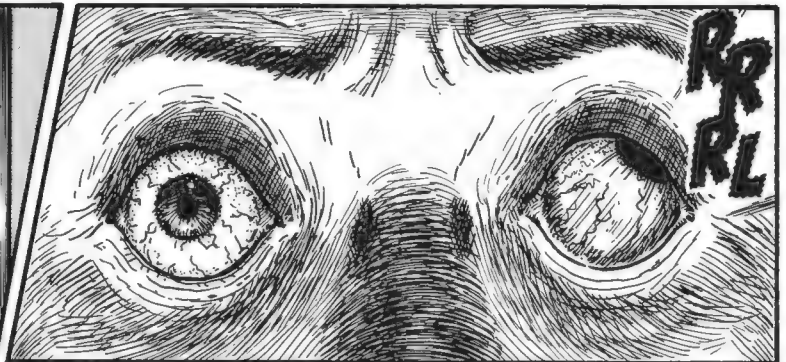
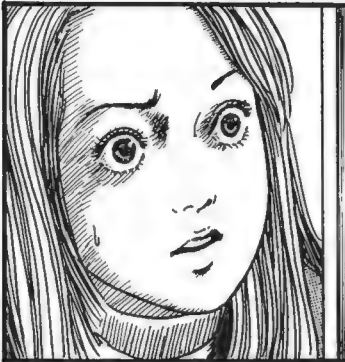
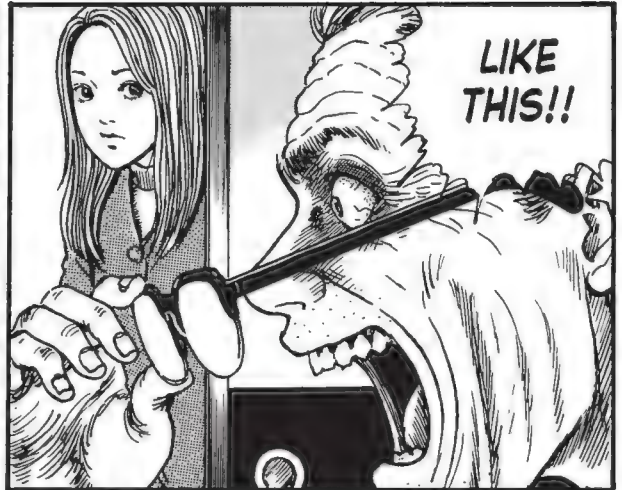


YEAH, WELL... IT COULD BE.











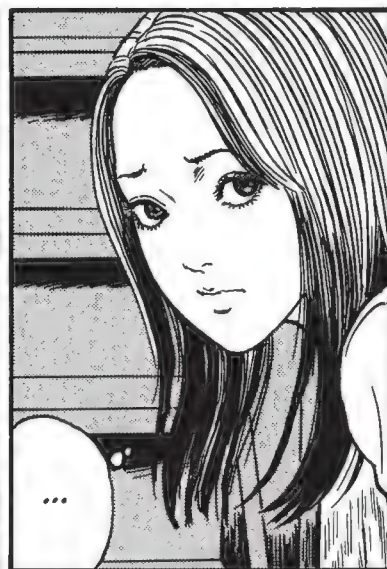
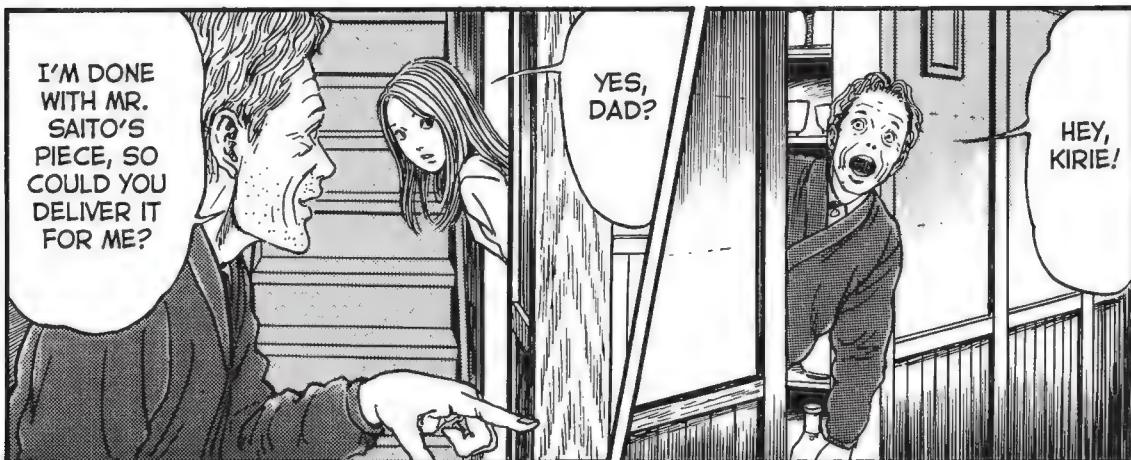
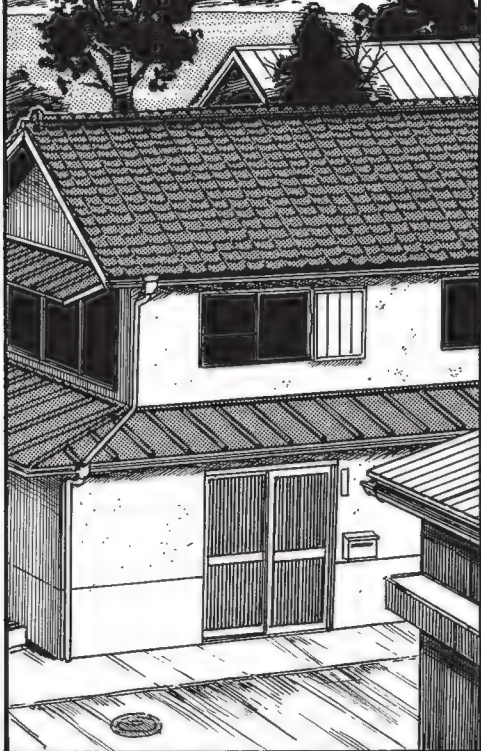
HA
HA
HA!

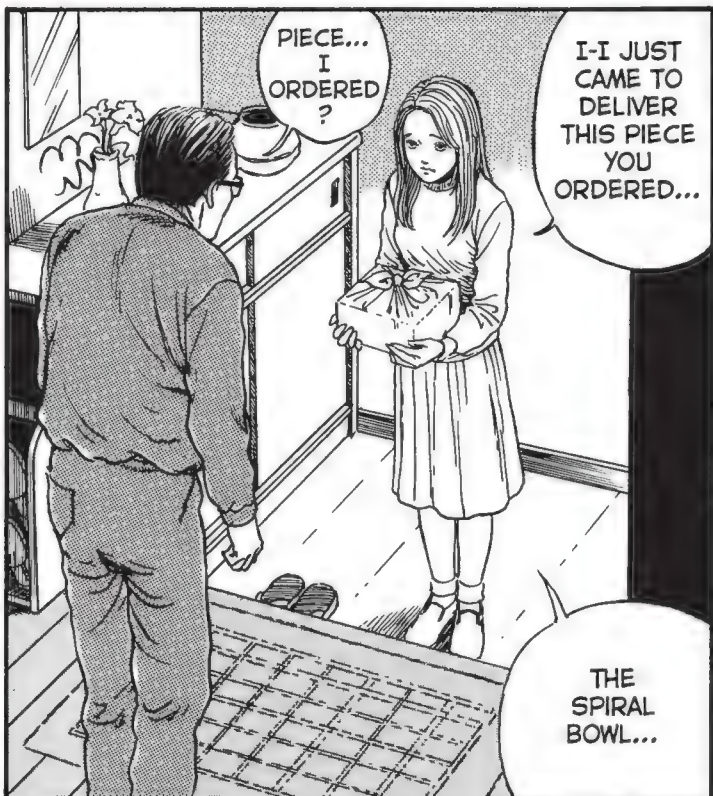
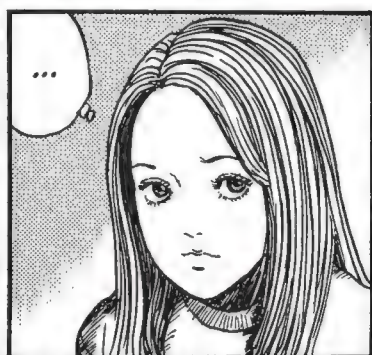
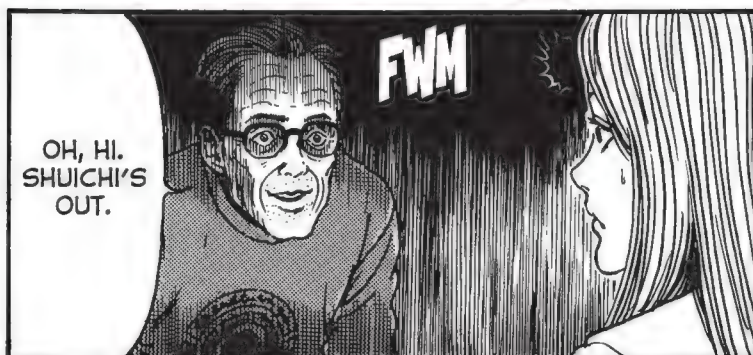
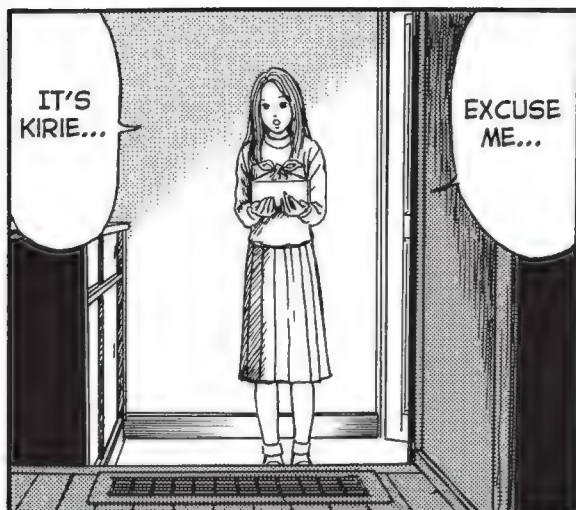
HIS EYES
WERE
SPINNING
AROUND
AND
AROUND...

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!

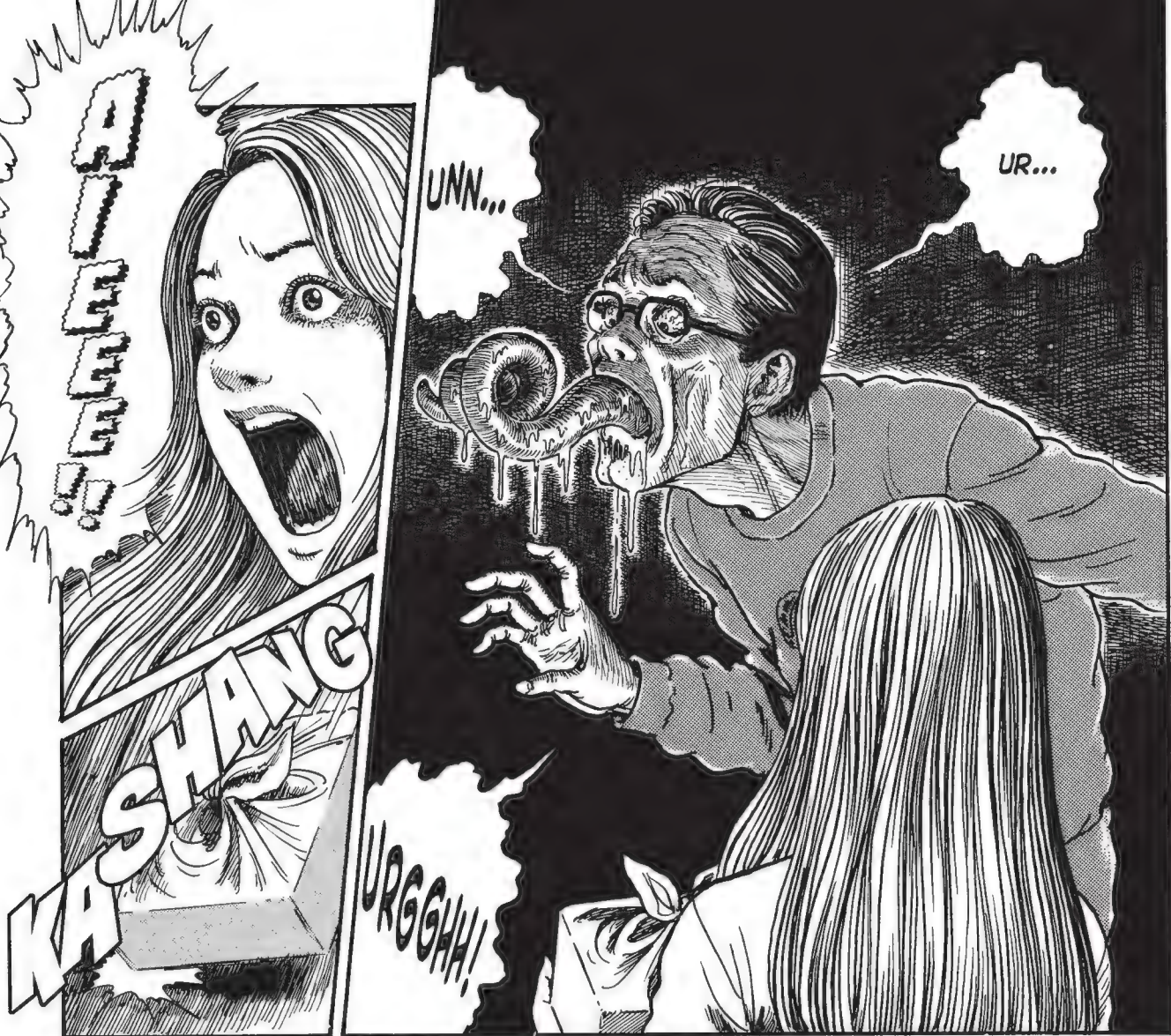
I
SAW
IT
MYSELF
NOW.

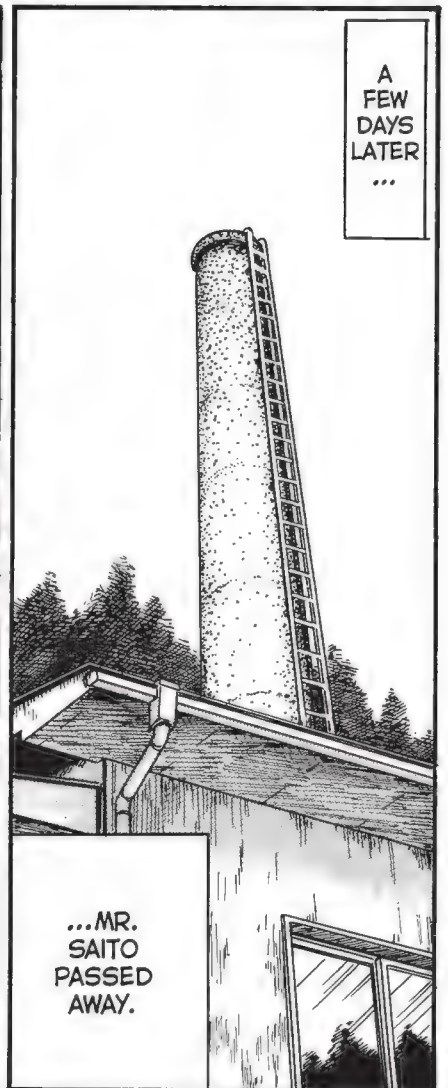
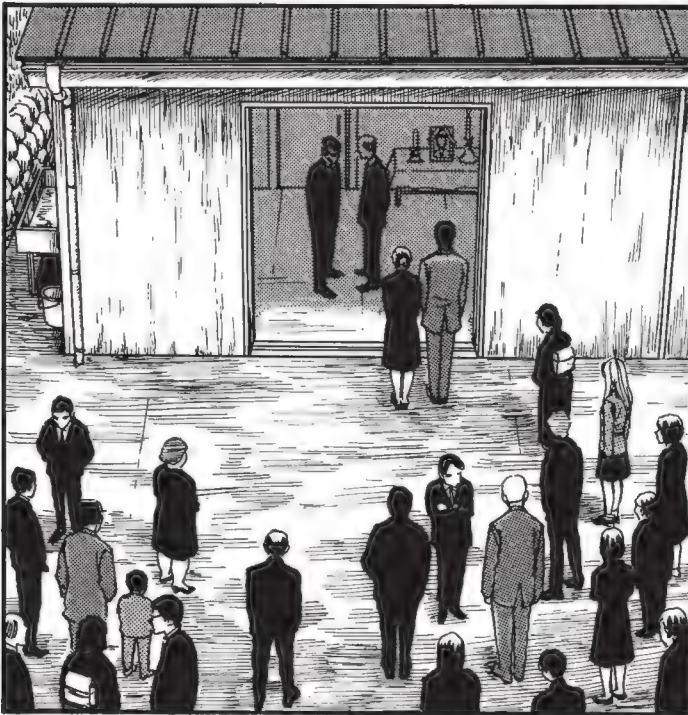
...
SEPARATELY
...

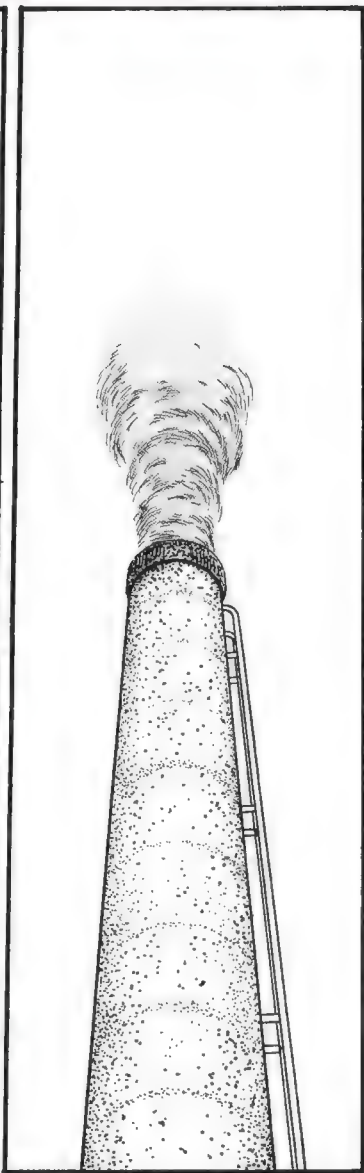
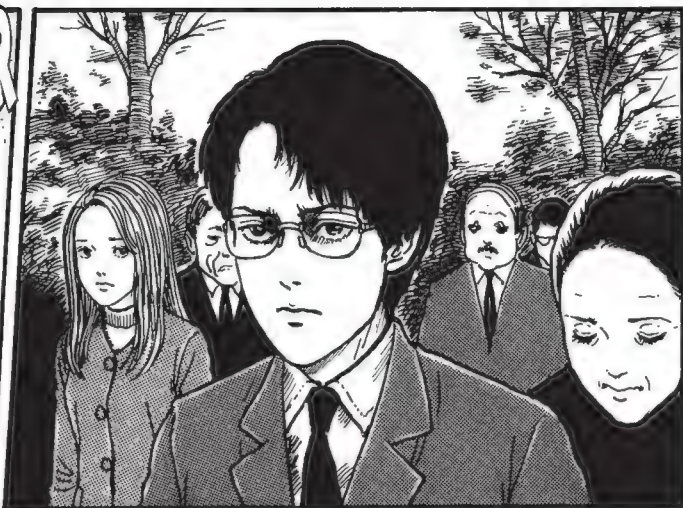


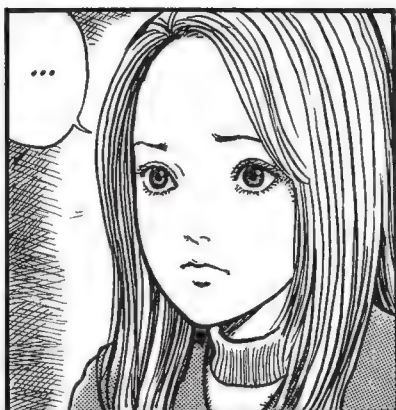












...



BUT
IT'S NOT
WHAT
HAP-
PENED!!

THAT'S
WHAT
WE TOLD
EVERY-
ONE!



...WENT TO
THE HOSPITAL,
WHERE WE
CONSULTED WITH
A DOCTOR.
WE DIDN'T TELL
MY DAD ABOUT
THIS.

BECAUSE MY
DAD WAS
BECOMING SO
ABNORMAL, MY
MOM AND I...



...ANY-
WHERE.



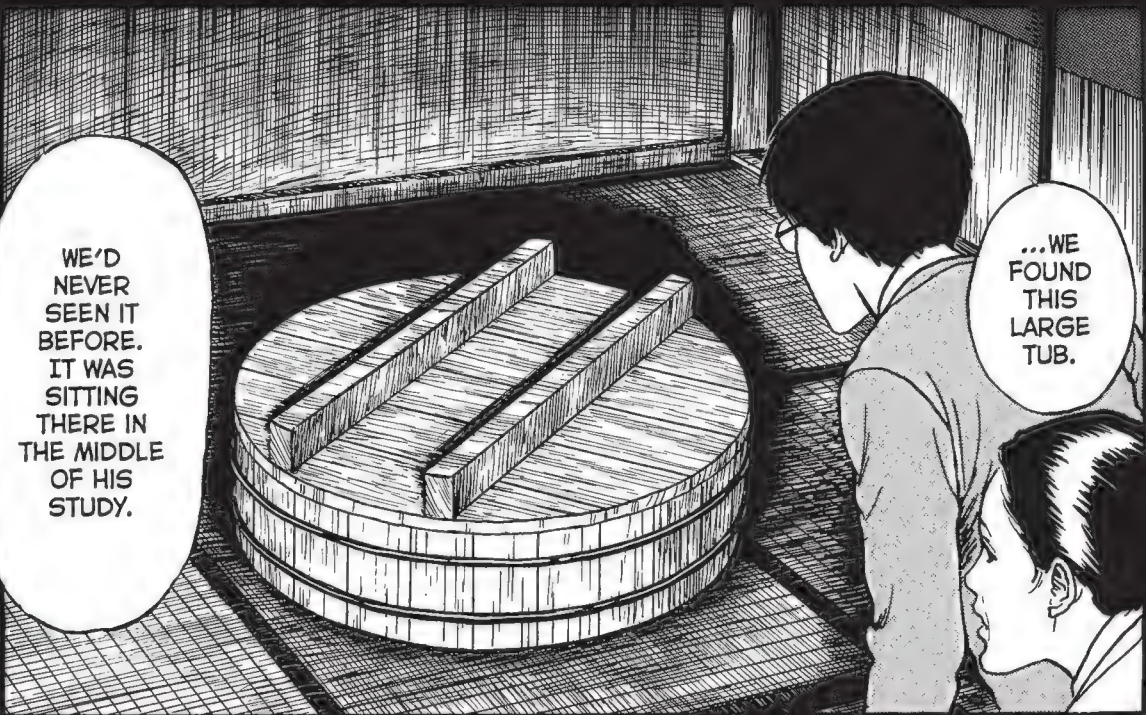
...WE
COULDN'T
FIND
HIM...

WE ALL
AGREED THAT
HE SHOULD
BE HOSPITALIZED.
WE CAME HOME
LATE THAT NIGHT
BUT...



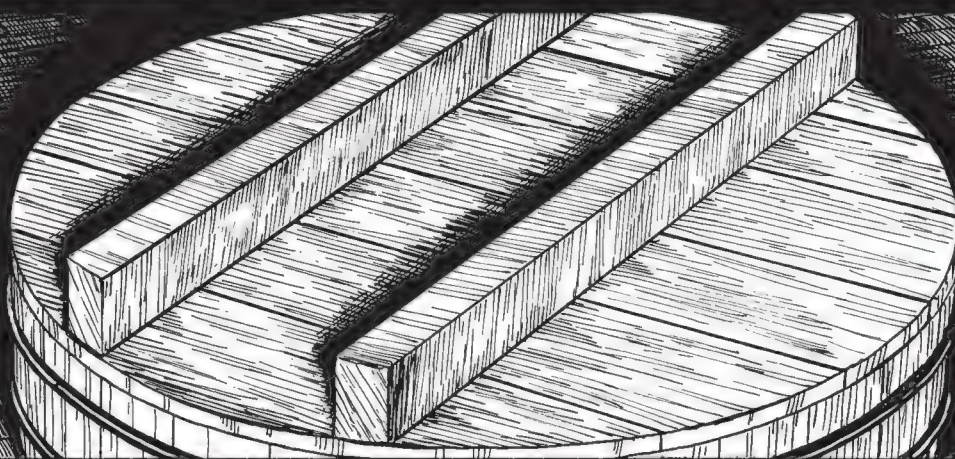
THEN...

ZZHHH



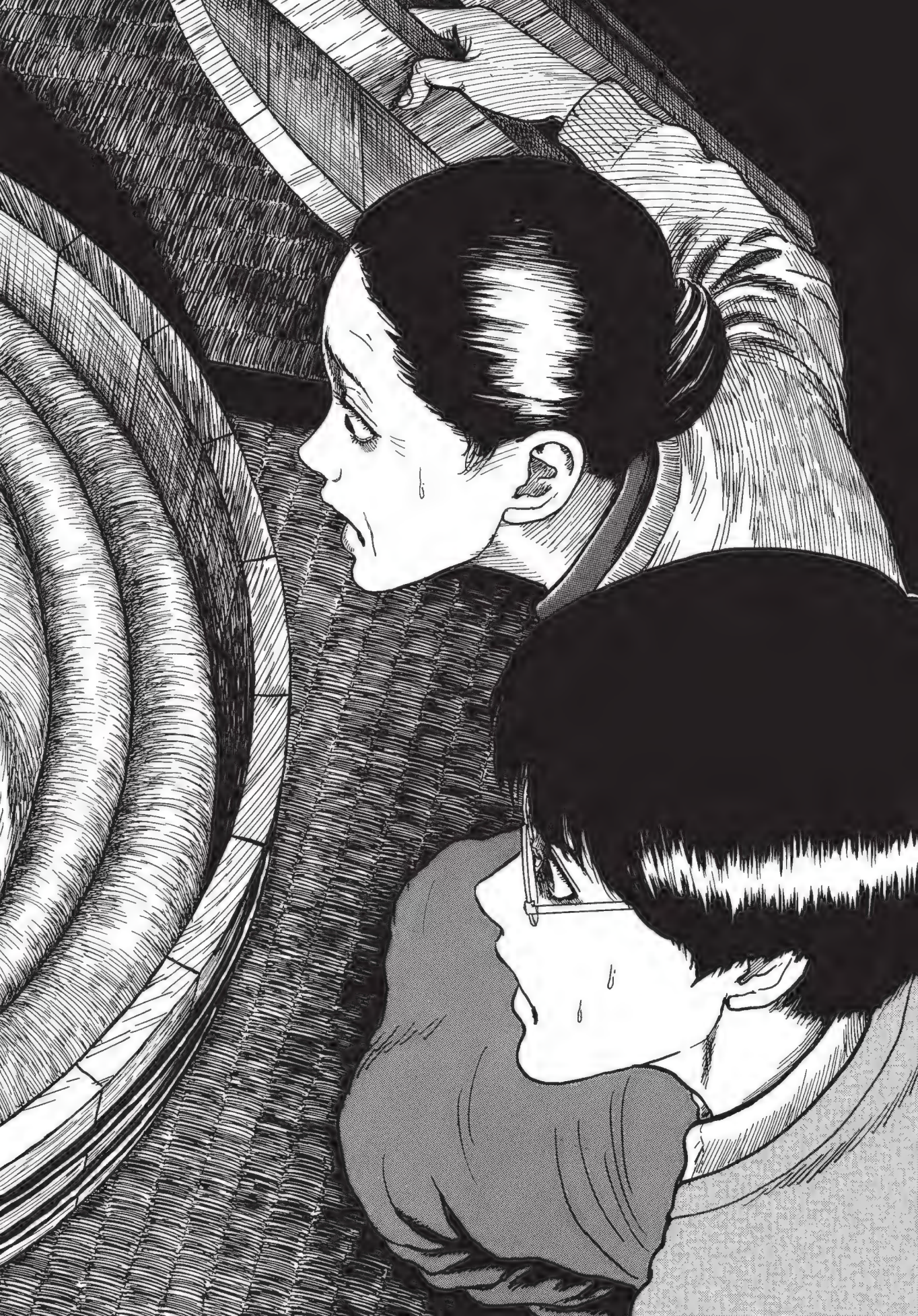
WE'D NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE. IT WAS SITTING THERE IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS STUDY.

...WE FOUND THIS LARGE TUB.



I WONDER...

...WHAT THIS IS...



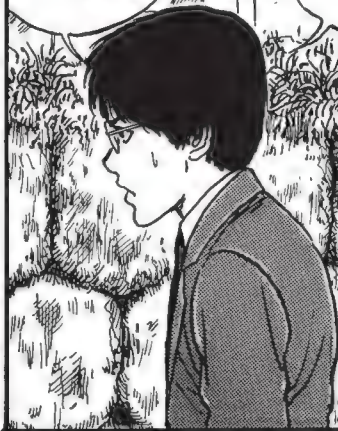


...CRUSH-
ING HIS
BODY...
THAT'S
HOW HE
DIED.

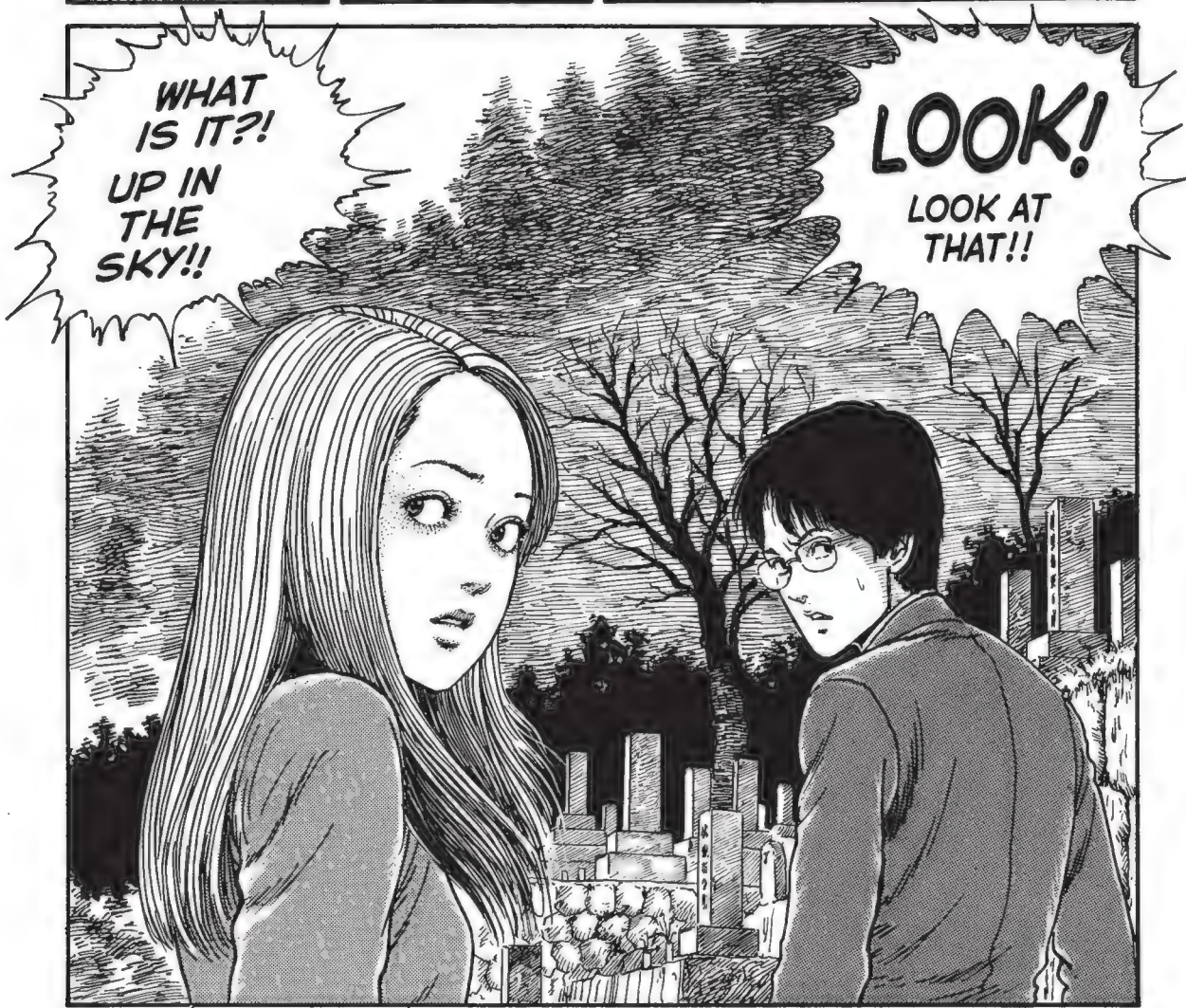


HE
TURNED
HIMSELF
INTO A
SPIRAL...

...HE
PUT
HIMSELF
INSIDE
THAT
TUB!!

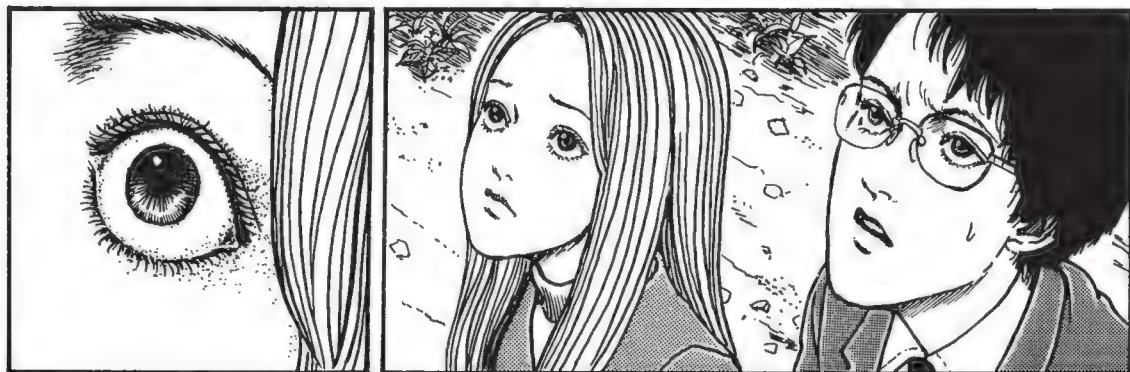
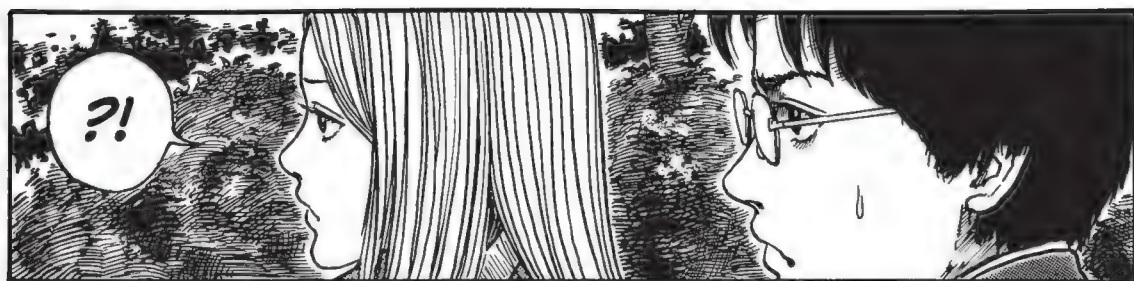


I DON'T
KNOW HOW IT
HAPPENED...
ALL I KNOW IS
THAT...



WHAT
IS IT?!
UP IN
THE
SKY!!

LOOK!
LOOK AT
THAT!!





...A
BAD
OMEN...

TH-THIS
MUST
BE...



THE
SMOKE
FROM
THE CRE-
MATION...

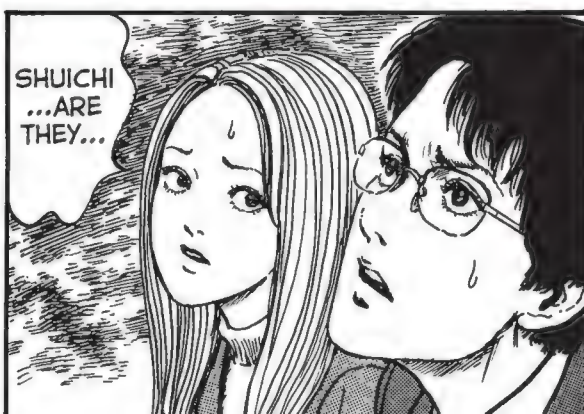
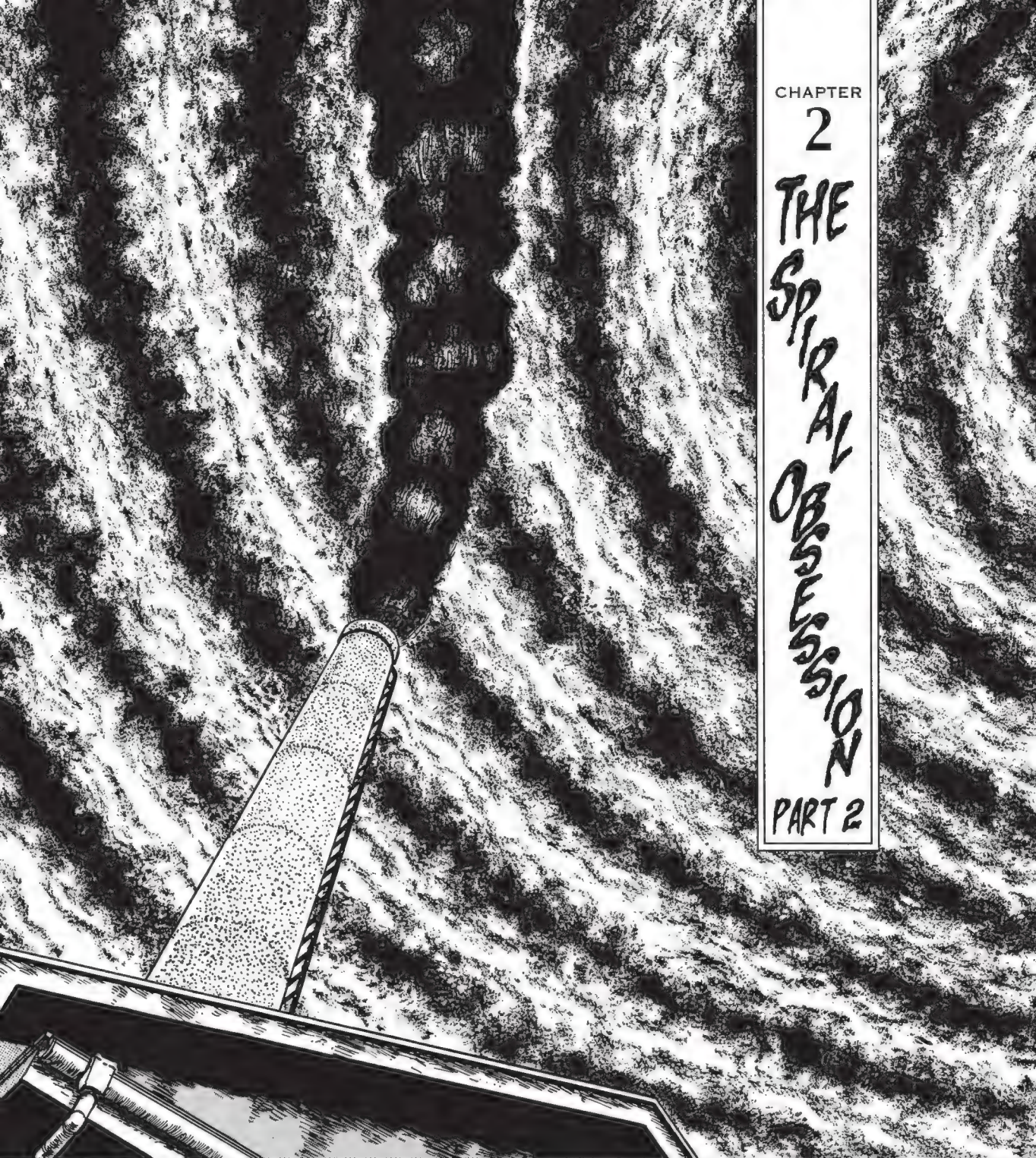
WH-WHAT
IS IT?

CHAPTER

2

THE
SPIRAL
OBSESSION

PART 2





IT'S
GOING
INTO
DRAGON-
FLY
POND!

IT'S
SWIRLING
DOWN
TOWARDS
THE
WATER!

LOOK!
THE
SMOKE
IS
SETTLING
!

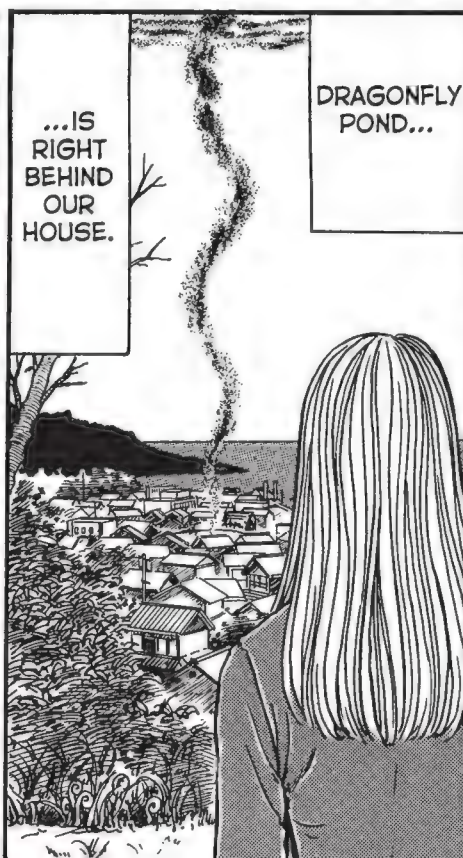


...IS
RIGHT
BEHIND
OUR
HOUSE.

DRAGONFLY
POND...

THIS
IS
JUST
TOO
STRANGE...

THE POND
IN THE
CENTER OF
TOWN.





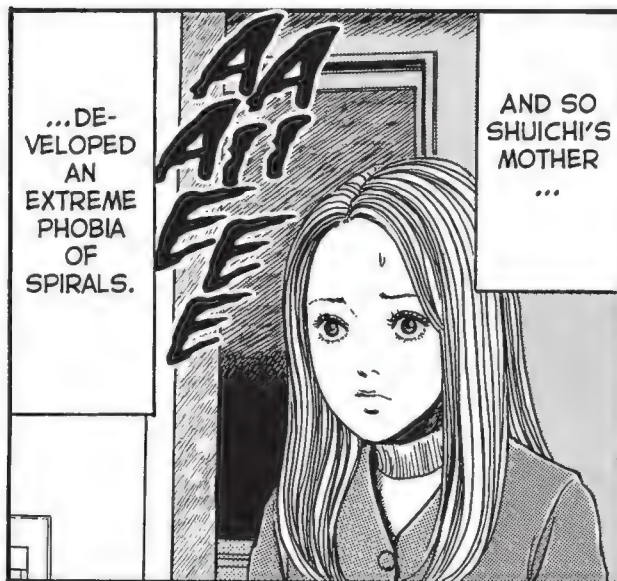
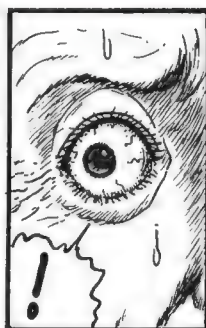
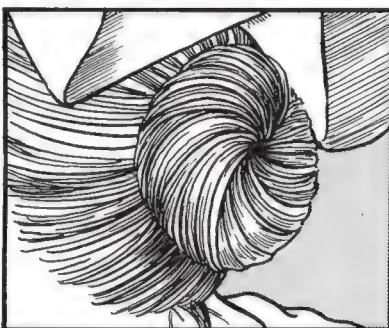
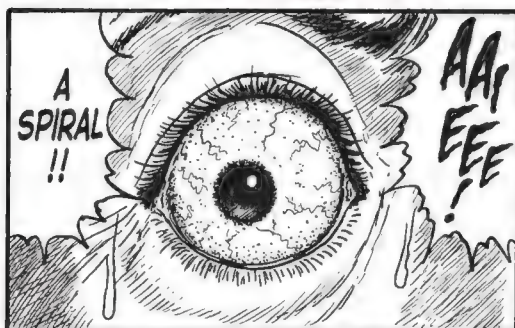




FOR A
SPLIT
SECOND
THE
DRIFTING
SMOKE...

...BECAME
THE
FACE
OF
SHUICHI'S
FATHER...







SHE
SHAVED
HER
HEAD.

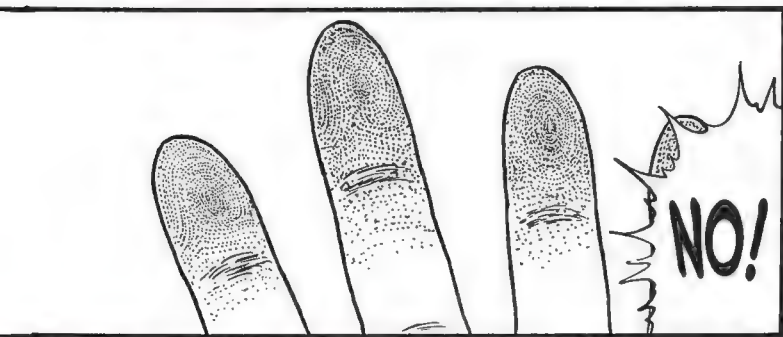
SHE
BECAME
TERRIFIED
OF CURLING
HAIR, OR
EVEN HER
OWN HAIR
IN A BUN.

HER PHOBIA
WORSENERD
TO THE POINT
WHERE SHE
COULDN'T
EAT SOLID
FOOD...

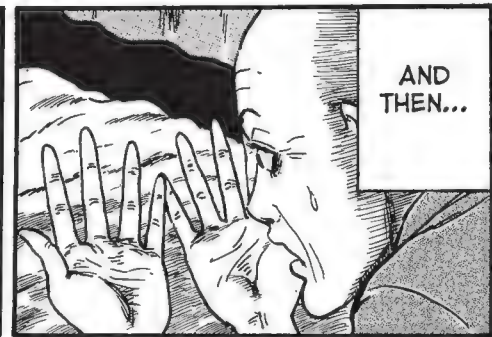


SHE
WAS
PUT IN
THE
HOSPI-
TAL.

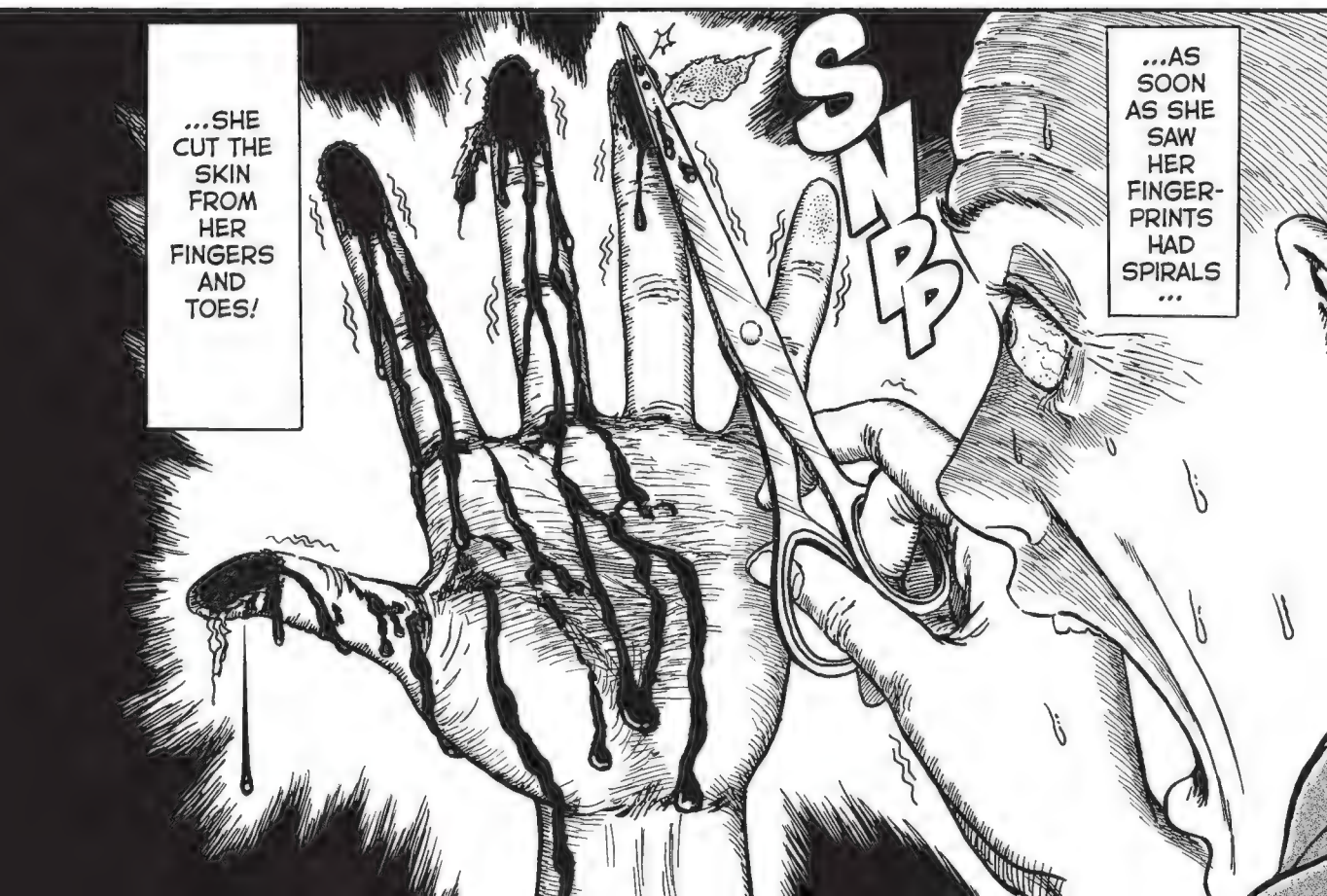
NO!
ANOTHER
SPIRAL!!



NO!



AND
THEN...



...SHE
CUT THE
SKIN
FROM
HER
FINGERS
AND
TOES!

...AS
SOON
AS SHE
SAW
HER
FINGER-
PRINTS
HAD
SPIRALS
...

SNRP



...MY
FATHER
WHEN
WE
FOUND
HIS
BODY.

TO
HER,
EVERY
SPIRAL
LOOKS
LIKE...



SHUICHI
TOLD ME...

MY
MOTHER
...



...COME
JOIN
ME IN
THE
SPIRAL.

YUKIE
DEAR
...



...AND
HE
SAYS...

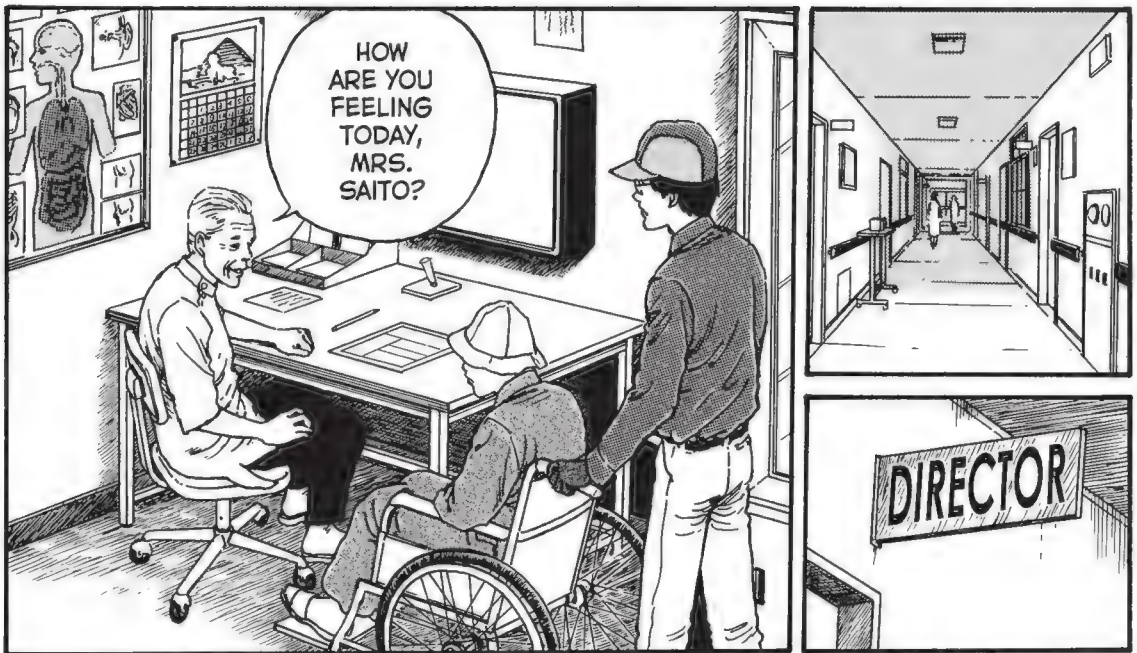
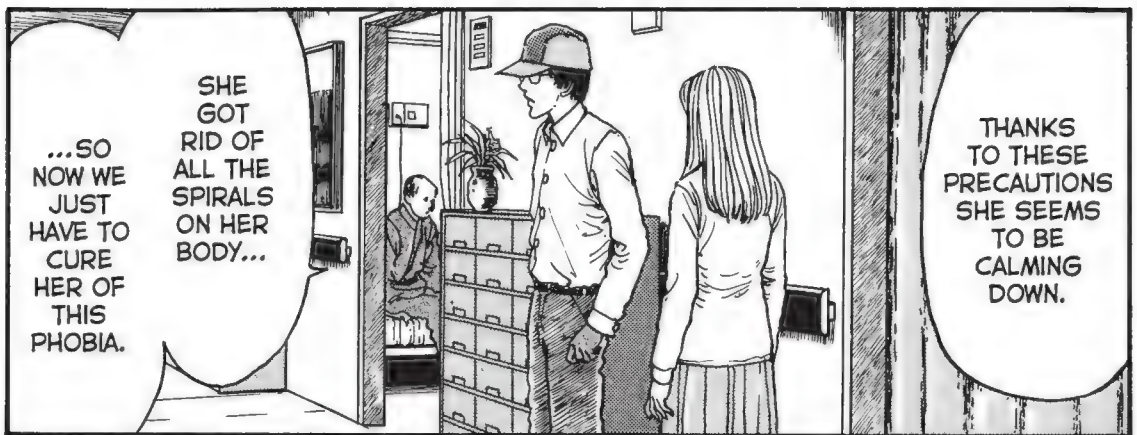
AND
HE
LOOKS
AT
HER...

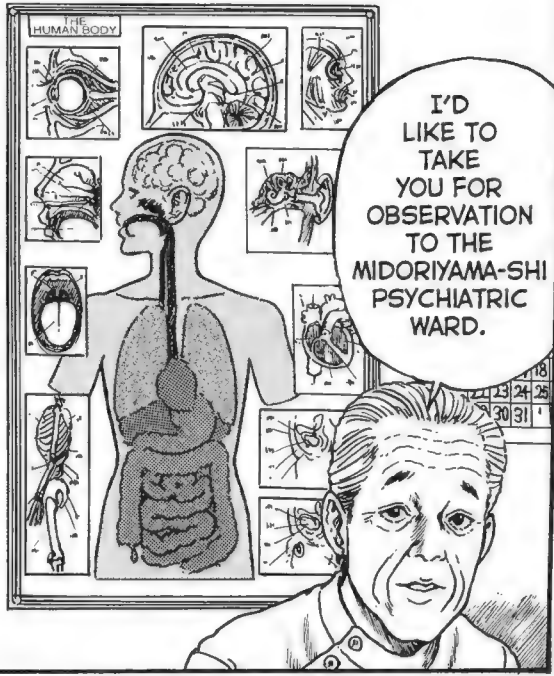


THE
DOCTORS
AND
NURSES
ARE
BEING
CAREFUL
TOO.

I WEAR
THIS HAT
AND GLOVES
SO SHE
WON'T
SEE MY
FINGERTIPS
OR THE
WHORLS IN
MY HAIR.

SHE'S
COMPLETELY
DELUSIONAL...



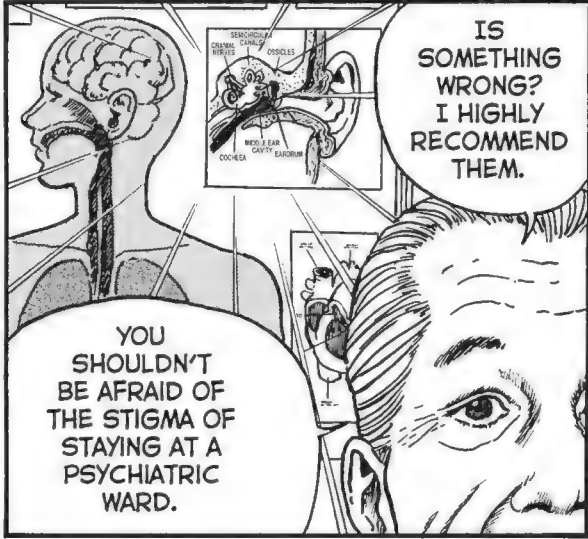


I'D
LIKE TO
TAKE
YOU FOR
OBSERVATION
TO THE
MIDORIYAMA-SHI
PSYCHIATRIC
WARD.



I
SEE.

THEN
HOW
ABOUT
THIS
...



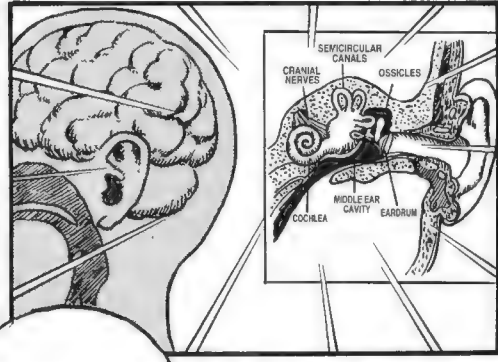
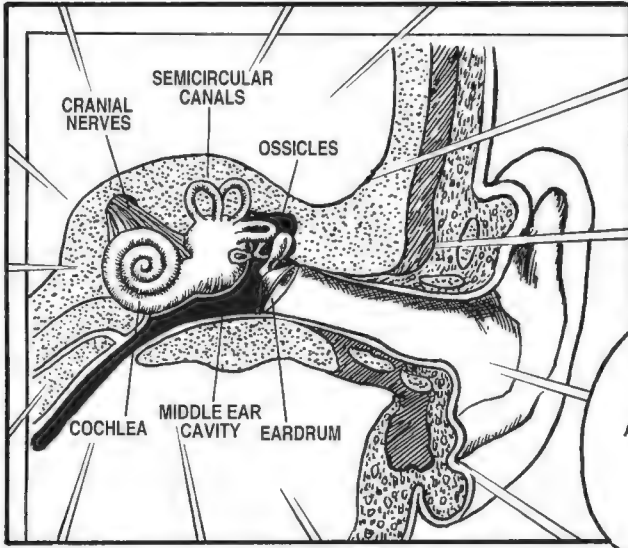
IS
SOMETHING
WRONG?
I HIGHLY
RECOMMEND
THEM.

YOU
SHOULDN'T
BE AFRAID OF
THE STIGMA OF
STAYING AT A
PSYCHIATRIC
WARD.



I-I
DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT
THAT...

SHUICHI
...?



THERE'S
ABSOLUTELY
NOTHING
TO FEAR.





WHAT
DO YOU
THINK,
SHUICHI?



...SORRY.

OH...



HUH?!

SHUICHI!!

urk



WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
YOU?

SHUICHI?



YOU
CAN BE
SO
STRANGE.

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER
?

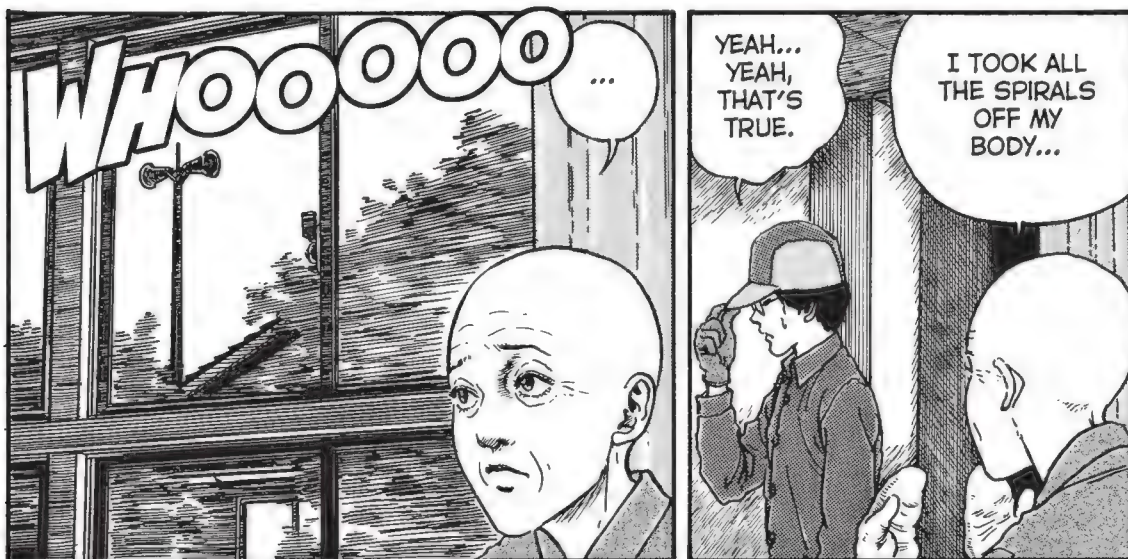


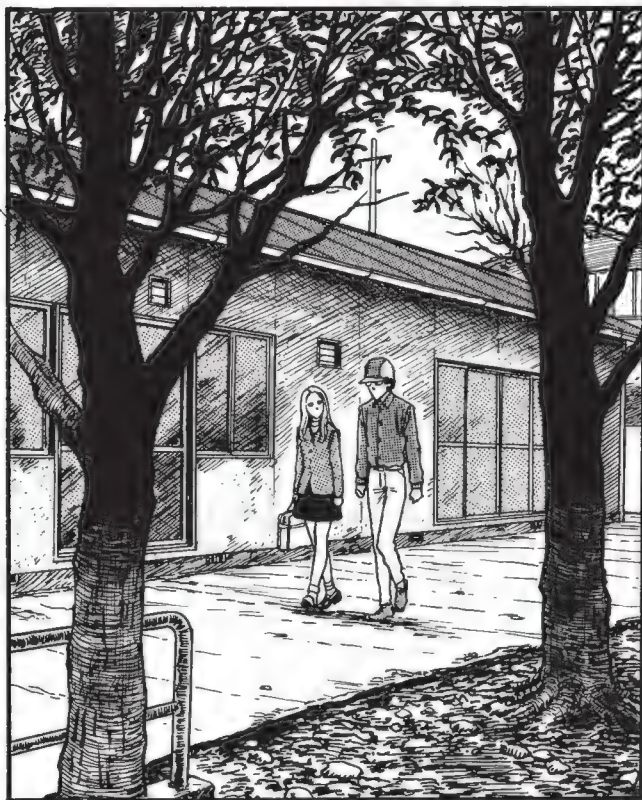
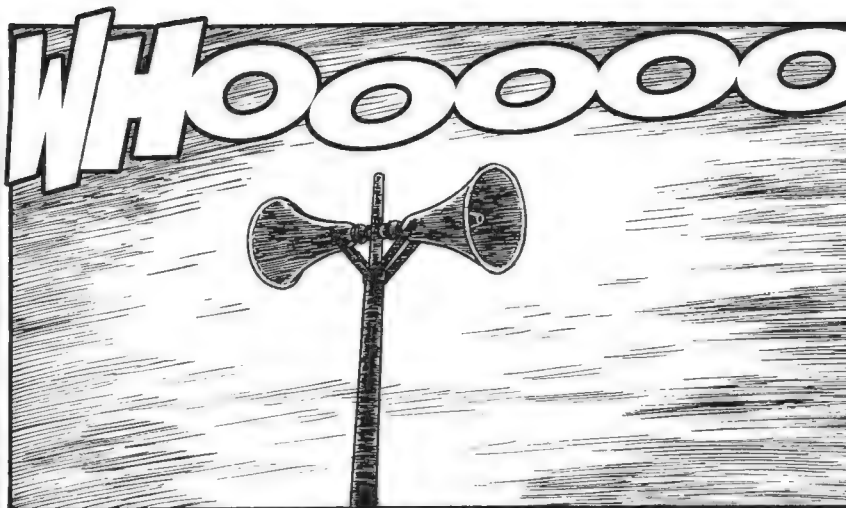
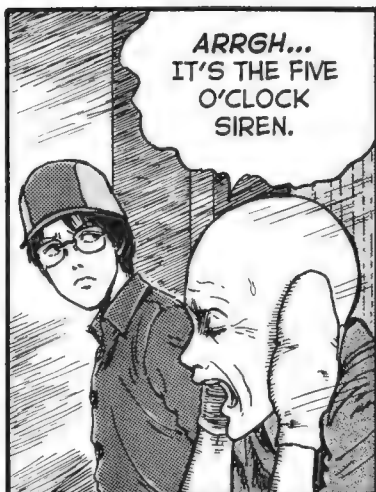
IT'S
NOTHING,
DOCTOR!!

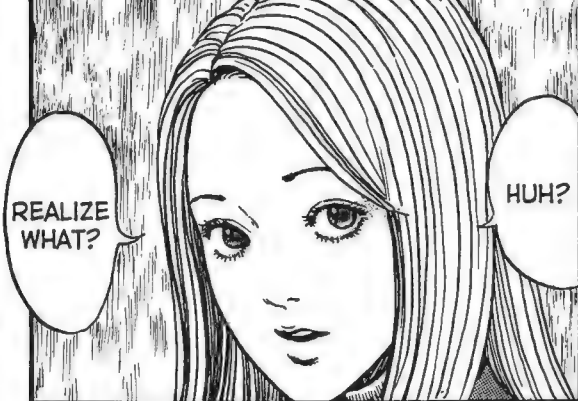
OH
NO!!



DOES
SOMETHING
ON THIS
WALL
BOTTER
YOU?

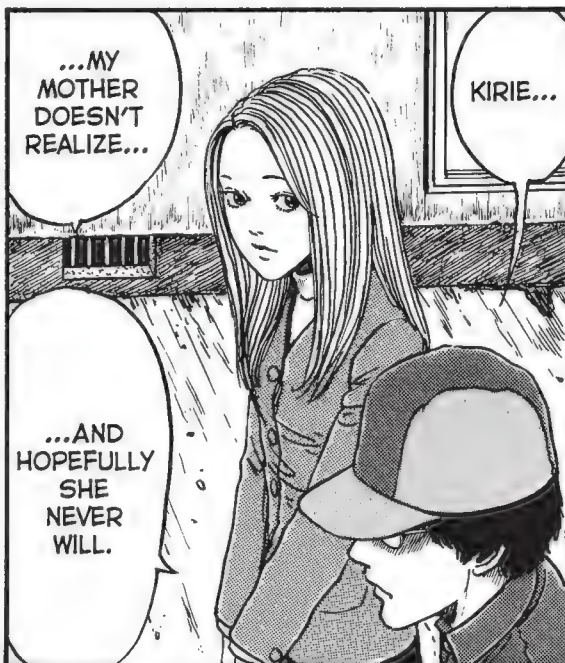






REALIZE WHAT?

HUH?



...MY MOTHER DOESN'T REALIZE...

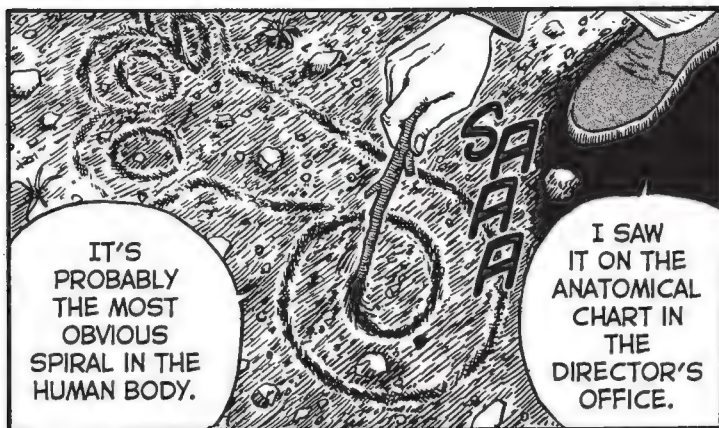
KIRIE...



BUT THERE'S MORE.

I THOUGHT THAT THE HAIR AND THE FINGERPRINTS WERE THE ONLY SPIRALS ON THE HUMAN BODY...

...AND HOPEFULLY SHE NEVER WILL.



IT'S PROBABLY THE MOST OBVIOUS SPIRAL IN THE HUMAN BODY.

I SAW IT ON THE ANATOMICAL CHART IN THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE.



THERE'S THE SENSOR FOR SOUND, THE COCHLEA IN THE INNER EAR.

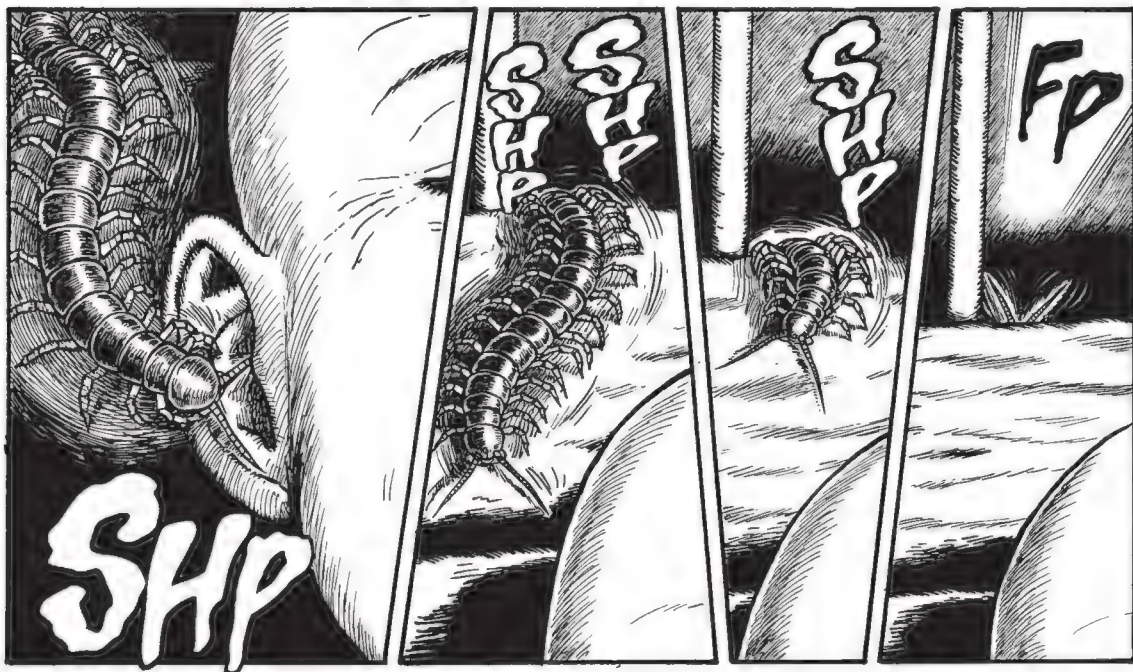


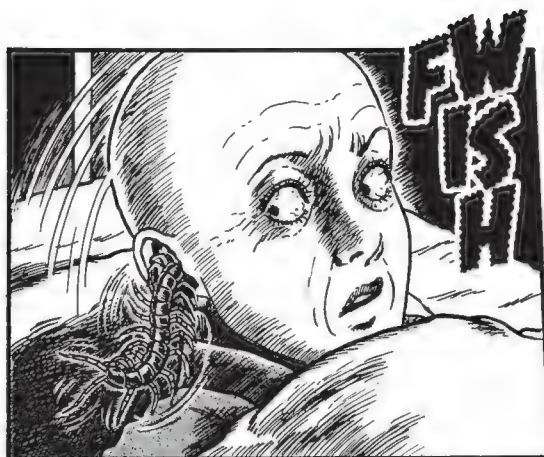
...

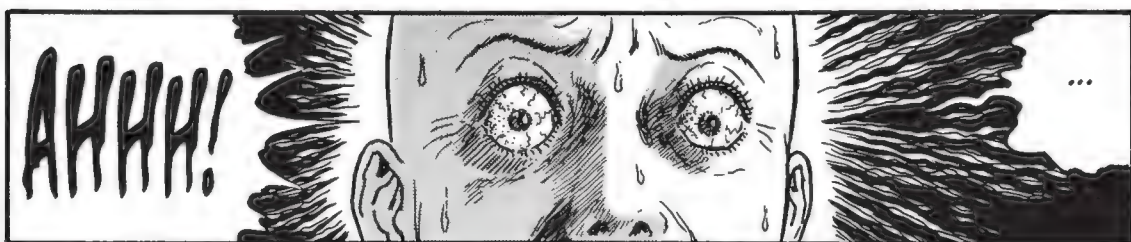


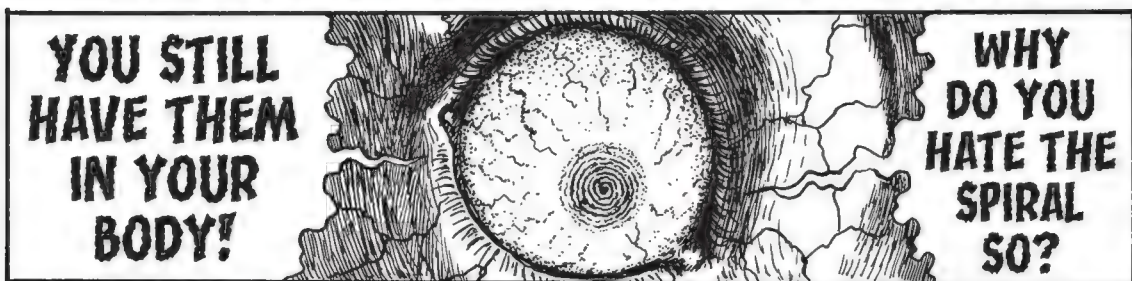
NO ONE CAN TELL... BUT SHE CUT OFF THE TIPS OF HER FINGERS...

WHAT WILL SHE DO IF SHE FINDS OUT THERE'S A SPIRAL INSIDE HER?











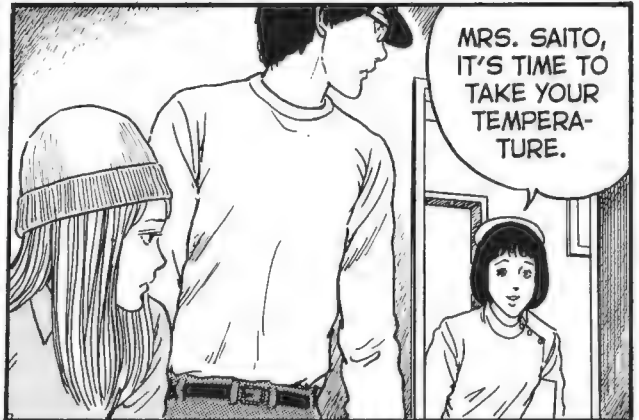
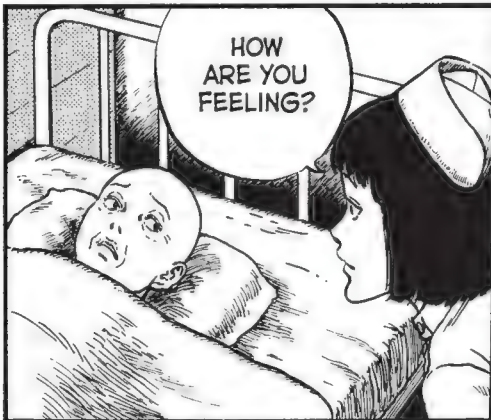
...ARE
YOU
FEELING
BETTER?

MRS.
SAITO...

MOTHER,
THEY
SAID YOU
SCREAMED
LAST
NIGHT...

**KUROUZU
HOSPITAL**

DID
SOME-
THING
HAPPEN?



HOW
ARE YOU
FEELING?

MRS. SAITO,
IT'S TIME TO
TAKE YOUR
TEMPERA-
TURE.



YES...

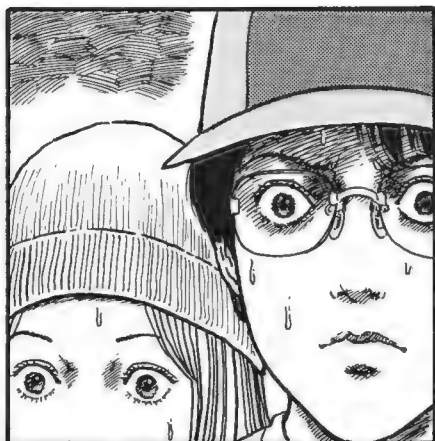
WHAT?
THE
EAR?

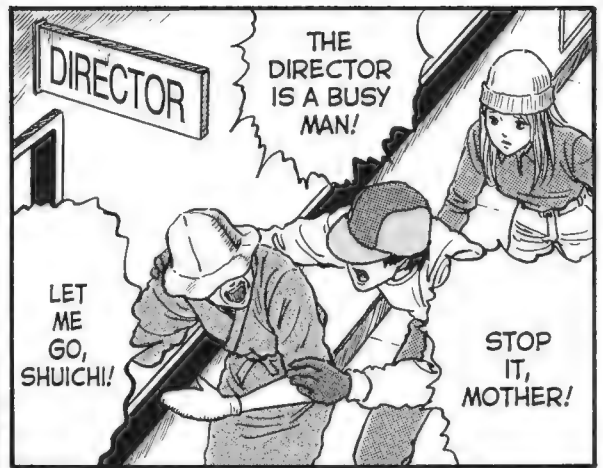
...THE
HUMAN
EAR?

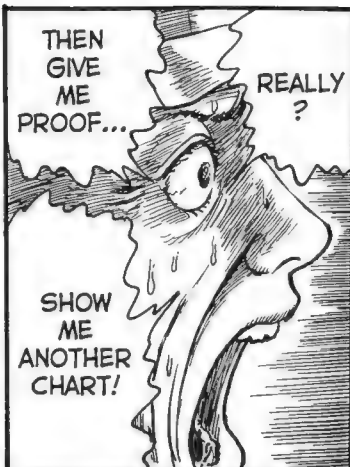
WHAT'S
INSIDE...

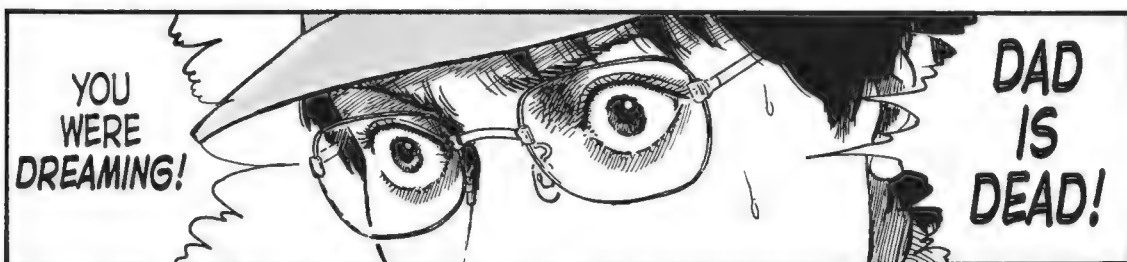
I WAS
WONDERING...

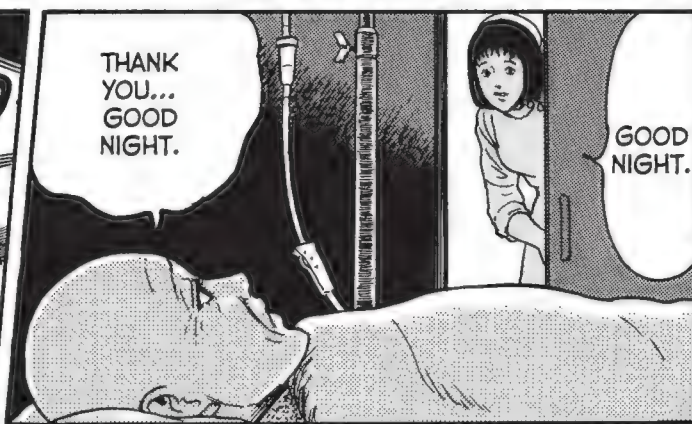
YES?



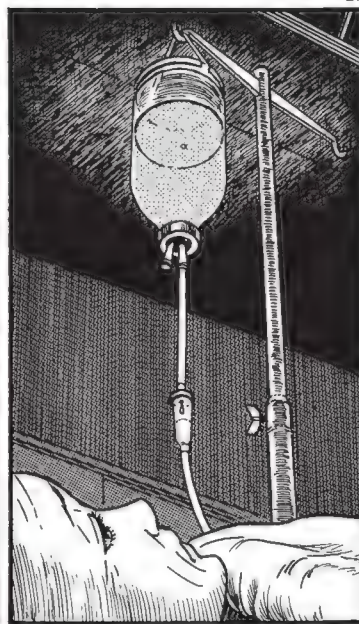


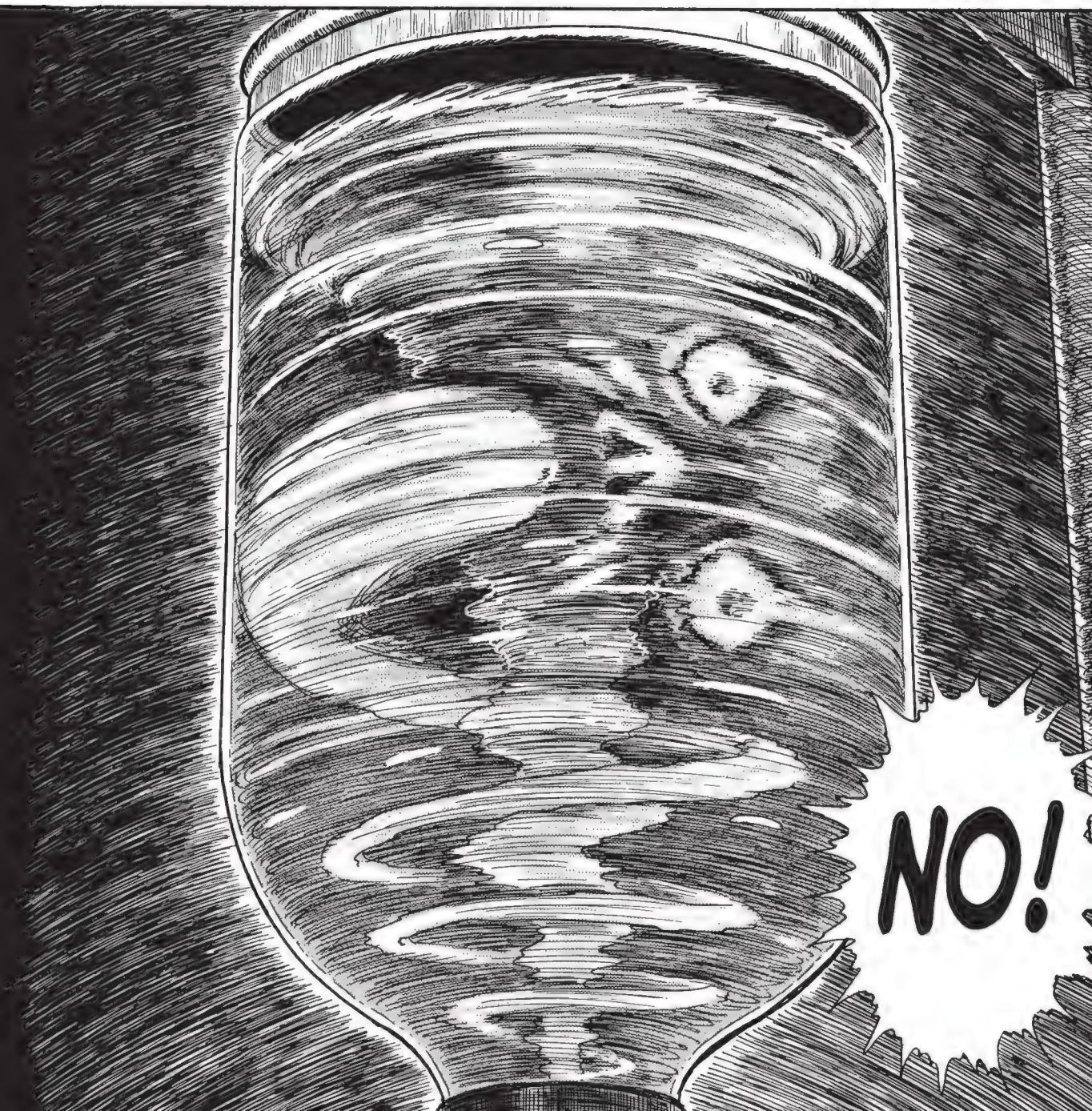
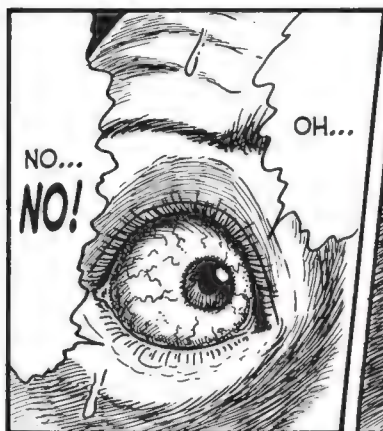


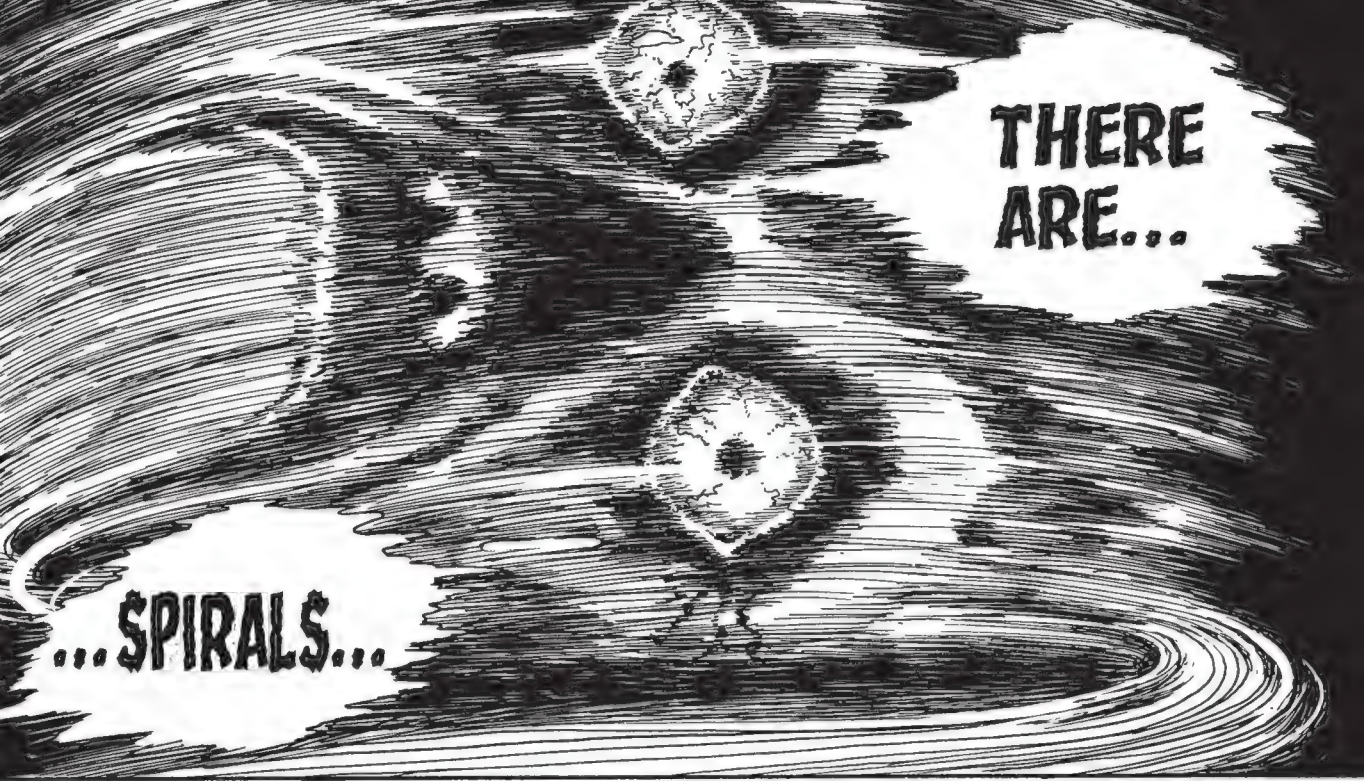




27

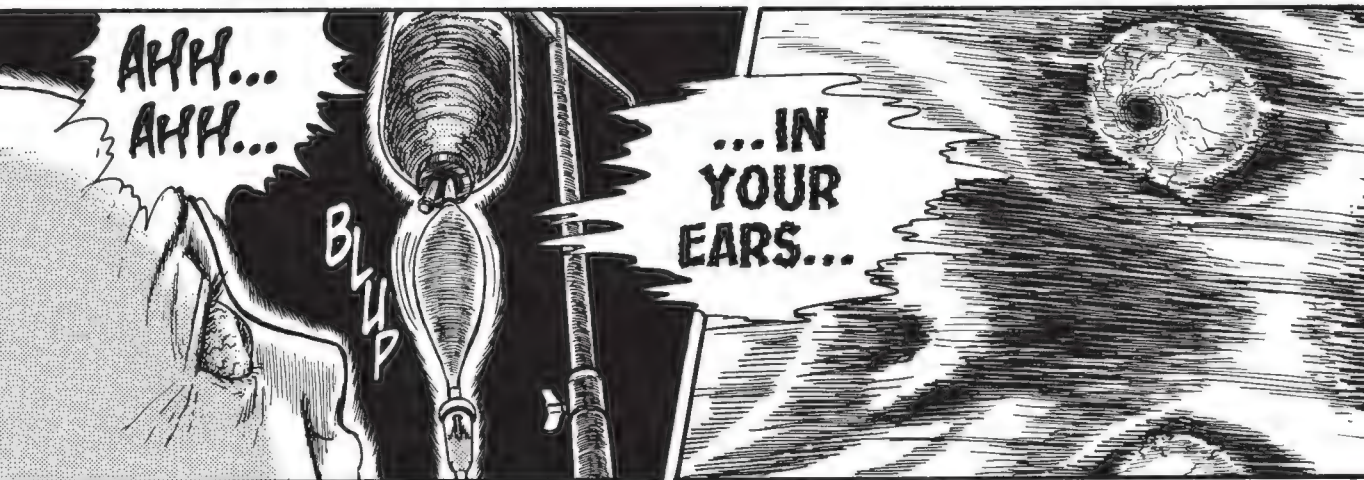






THERE
ARE...

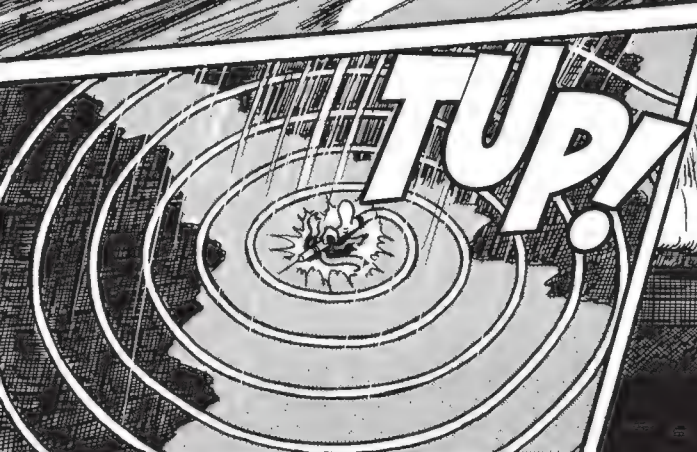
...SPIRALS...



...IN
YOUR
EARS...



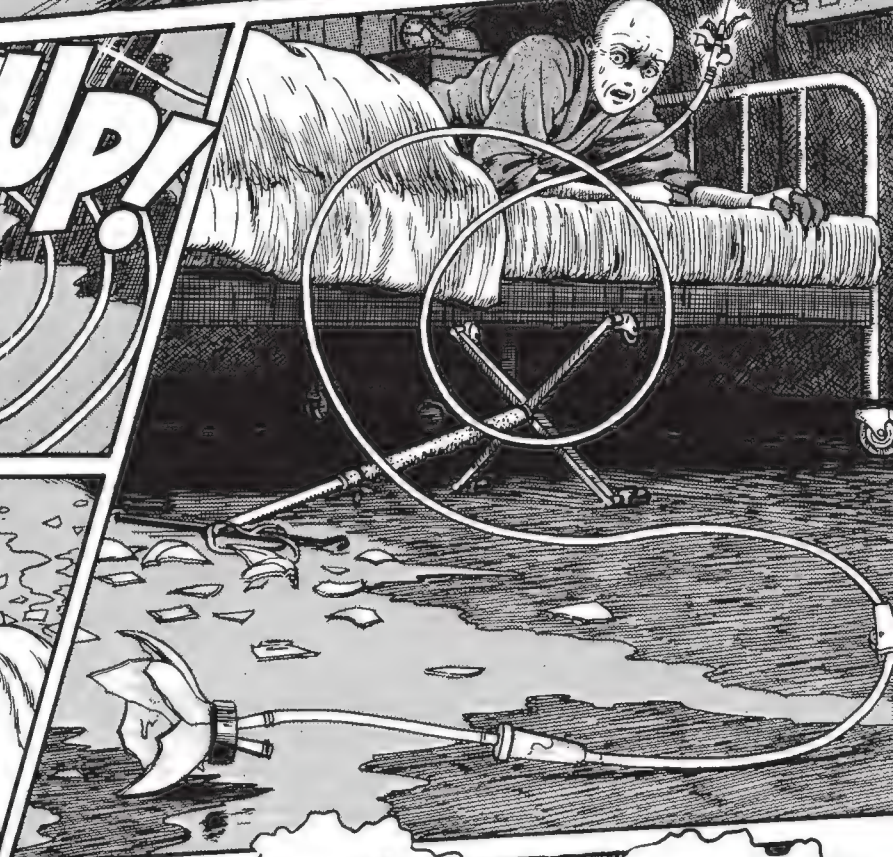
KARASH



TUP!



EE
YAAA
!!



HE
SLID
INTO
THE
SPIRALS
IN MY
EARS!

HE'S
IN
MY
EARS...

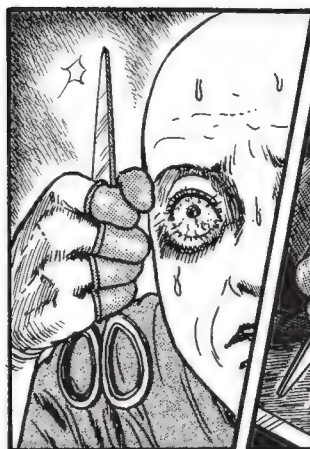


...IN
YOUR
EARS.

THERE
ARE
SPIRALS...

HE'S
IN
MY
EARS!

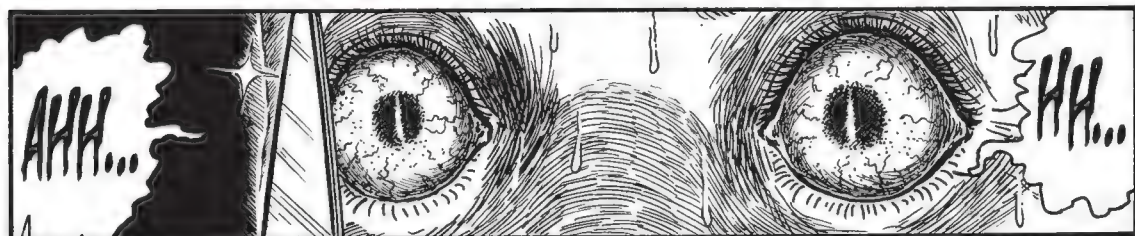
I CAN
STILL
HEAR
HIM!



I'LL
GET
THEM
OUT!

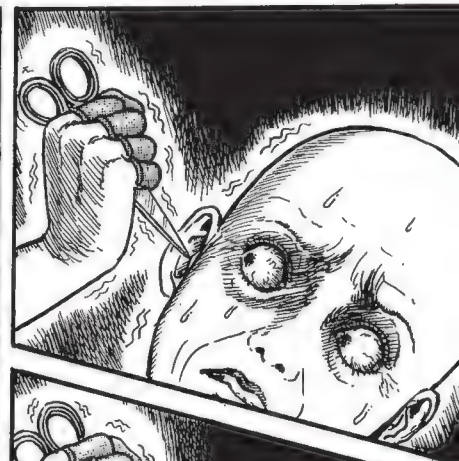
RUSTLE RUSTLE


NO...
NO!



AHH...

HH...





AS A
RESULT,
SHE WAS
IN A
CONSTANT
STATE OF
VERTIGO...

BY STABBING
HER EARS,
SHE DESTROYED
NOT ONLY HER
HEARING BUT
HER SENSE OF
BALANCE.

I
DON'T
WANT
TO
BECOME
A
SPIRAL!

NO!

MY
BODY...
SPIRAL...

AAAAH!
I'M
SPINNING!

SHUICHI'S
MOTHER
WAS
HAUNTED BY
SPIRALS
UNTIL THE
MOMENT
SHE DIED.

...ANOTHER
BLACK
SPIRAL...
EMERGED
IN THE
SKY
ABOVE
OUR
TOWN.

ON THE
DAY OF
HER
FUNERAL,
AS HER
BODY WAS
BURNED...

CHAPTER

3

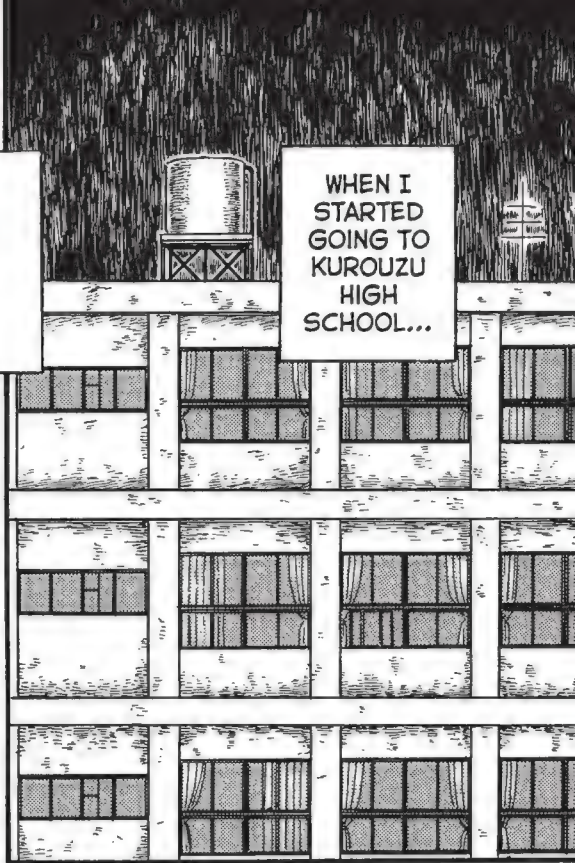
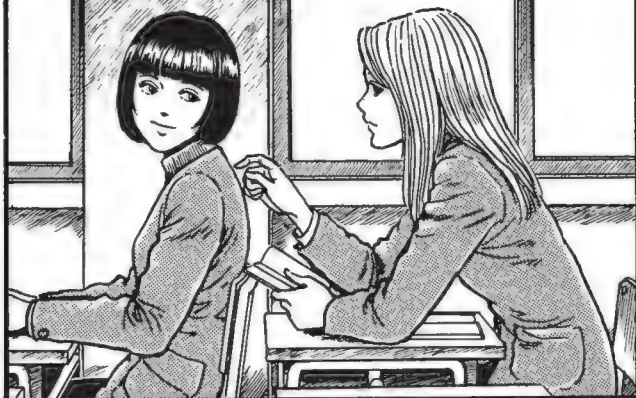
THE
SCAR



SHE
COMMUTED
TO SCHOOL
FROM
MIDORIYAMA-
SHI.

...I MADE
FRIENDS
WITH AZAMI
KUROTANI.

WHEN I
STARTED
GOING TO
KUROUZU
HIGH
SCHOOL...



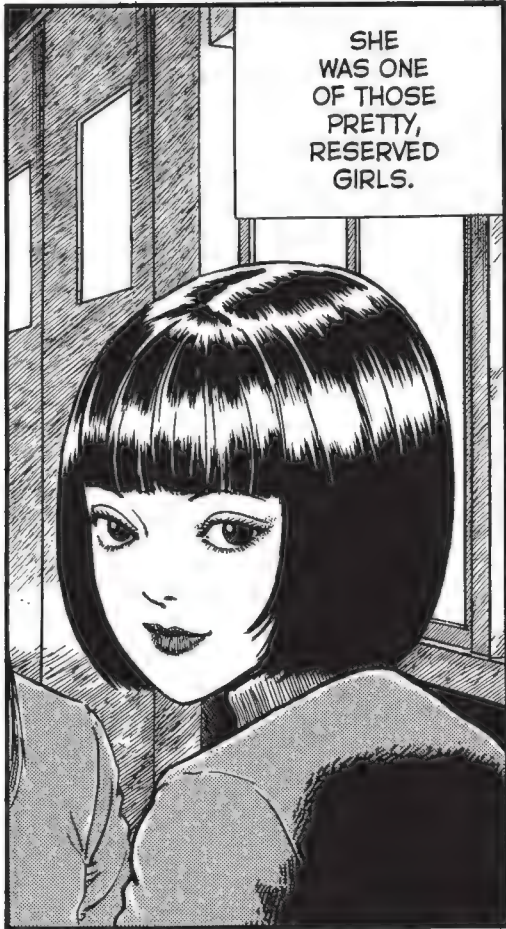
IF I
HADN'T,
SHE
WOULD
NEVER
HAVE MET
SHUICHI...

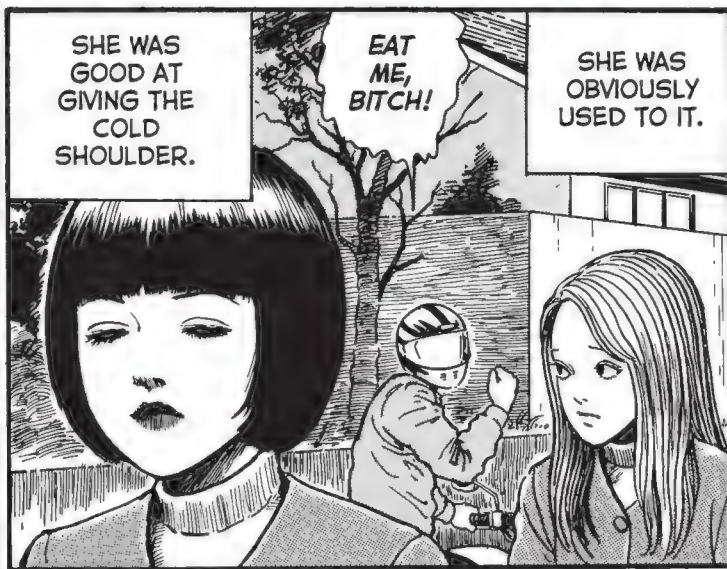
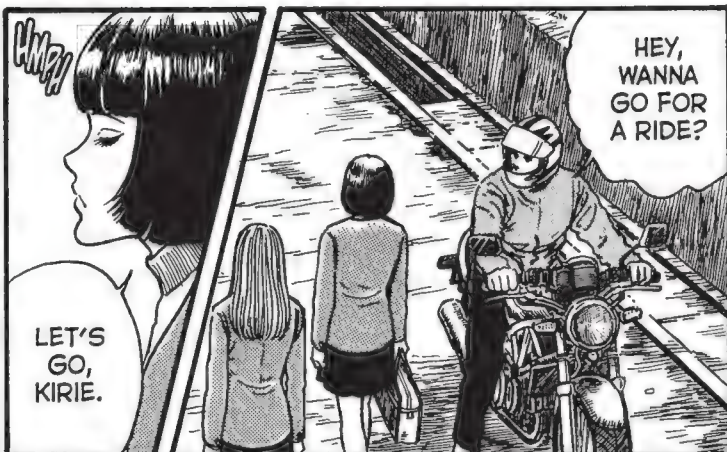
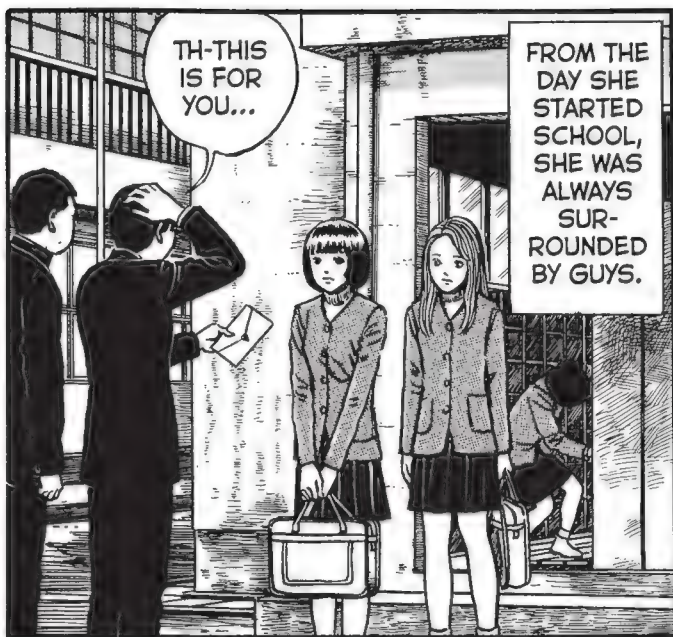
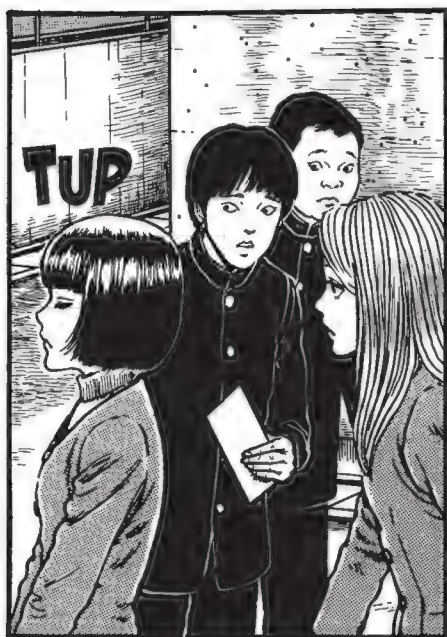
BUT
NOW I
REGRET
EVER
MEETING
HER.

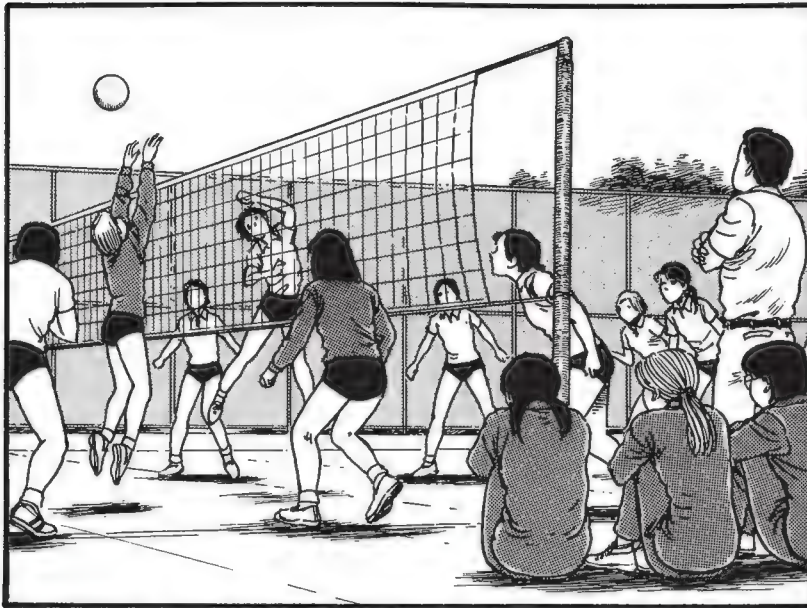


...AND
WE
MIGHT
HAVE
PREVENTED
WHAT
HAPPENED.

SHE
WAS ONE
OF THOSE
PRETTY,
RESERVED
GIRLS.





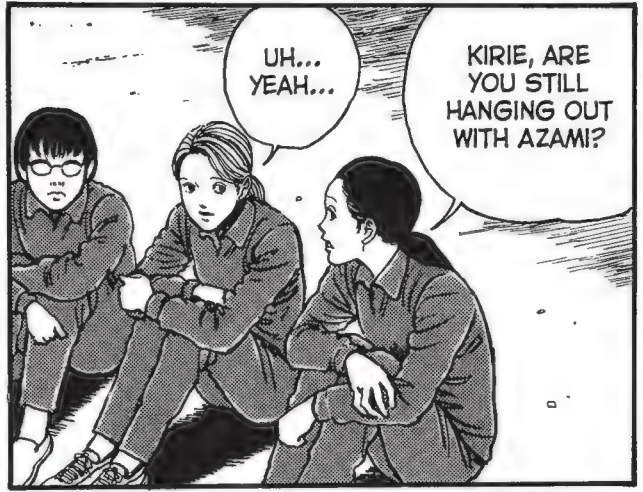


AS
TIME WENT
ON, A
RUMOR
STARTED
GOING
AROUND.



WHY
NOT?

YOU REALLY
SHOULDN'T,
Y'KNOW.



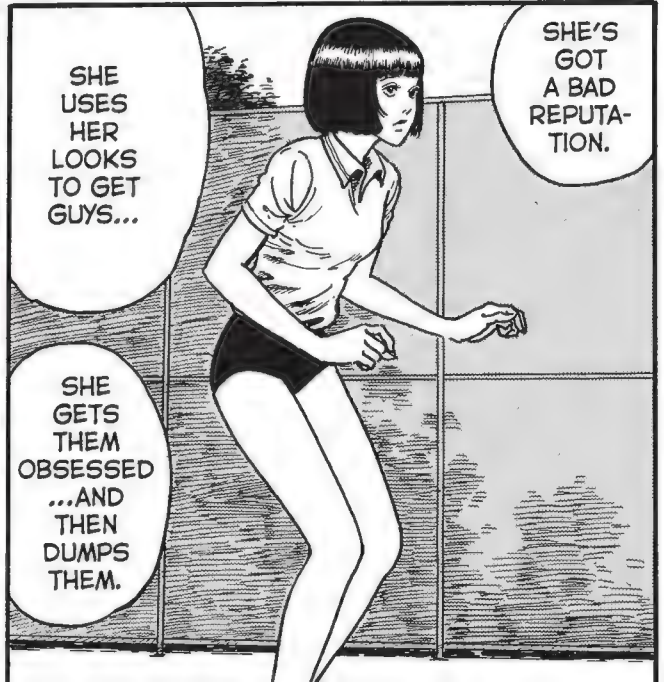
UH...
YEAH...

KIRIE, ARE
YOU STILL
HANGING OUT
WITH AZAMI?



MAGIC
POWER?

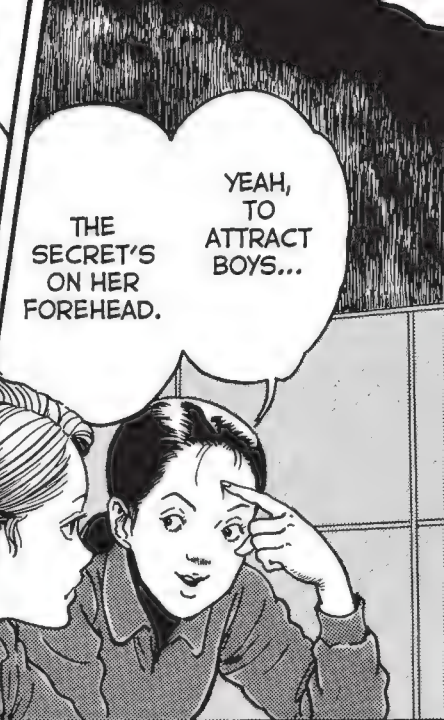
THEY SAY
SHE'S GOT
A MAGIC
POWER.



SHE
USES
HER
LOOKS
TO GET
GUYS...

SHE
GETS
THEM
OBSESSED
...AND
THEN
DUMPS
THEM.

SHE'S
GOT
A BAD
REPUTA-
TION.



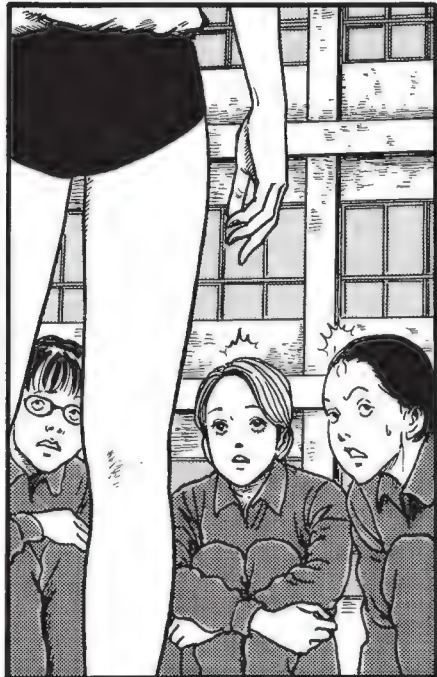
THEY SAY THAT'S THE SOURCE OF HER POWER.

YOU CAN'T TELL BECAUSE OF HER BANGS, BUT SHE'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE A SCAR THERE.

YEAH, TO ATTRACT BOYS... THE SECRET'S ON HER FOREHEAD.

... YOU'D BETTER BE CAREFUL OR SHE'LL END UP STEALING YOUR BOYFRIEND.

DONNNG



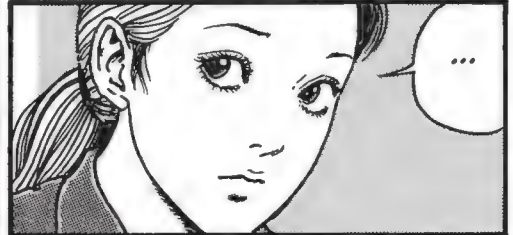
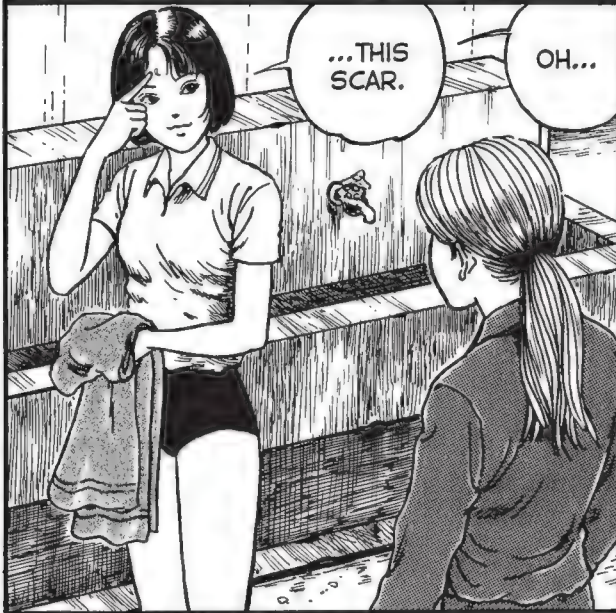
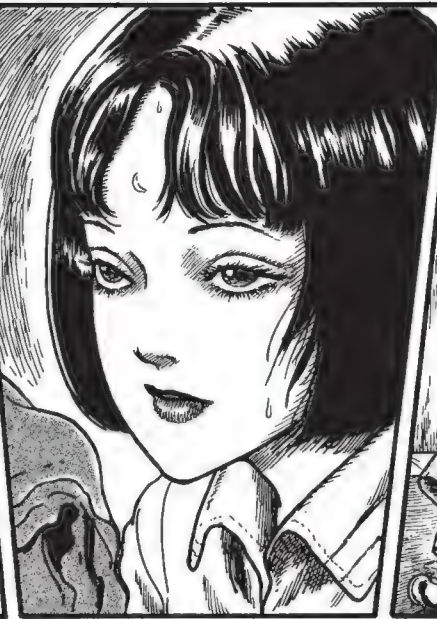
LET'S GO BACK TO THE CLASS-ROOM.

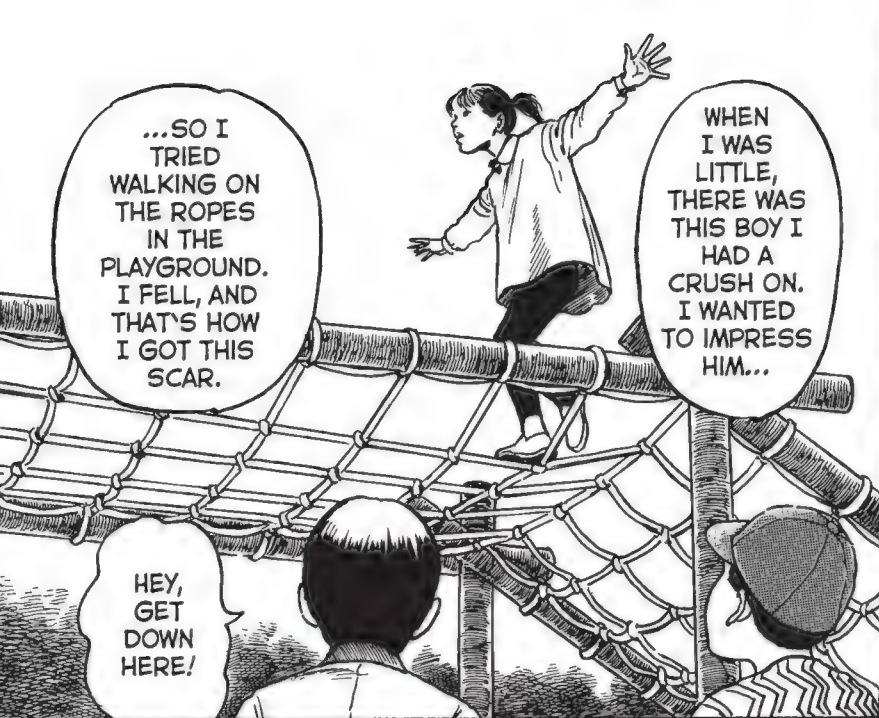
KIRIE, THE BELL RANG.

S-SURE, AZAMI.



SPLASH
SPLASH





...SO I TRIED WALKING ON THE ROPES IN THE PLAYGROUND. I FELL, AND THAT'S HOW I GOT THIS SCAR.

WHEN I WAS LITTLE, THERE WAS THIS BOY I HAD A CRUSH ON. I WANTED TO IMPRESS HIM...

HEY, GET DOWN HERE!



IT'S TRUE, THOUGH, THAT THIS SCAR MEANS SOMETHING TO ME.



...THIS SCAR REALLY DOES HAVE THE POWER TO ATTRACT BOYS.

SO I DO WONDER AT TIMES IF...

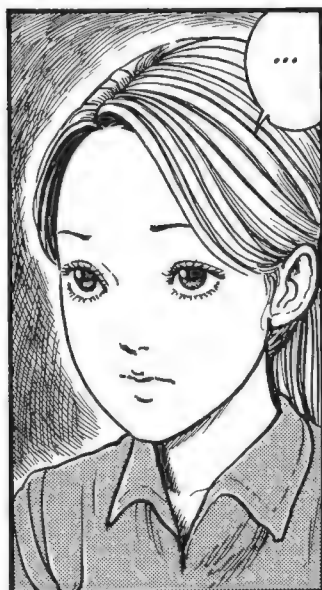


I TOLD YOU SO! YOU OKAY?

I'LL GO GET THE TEACHER!

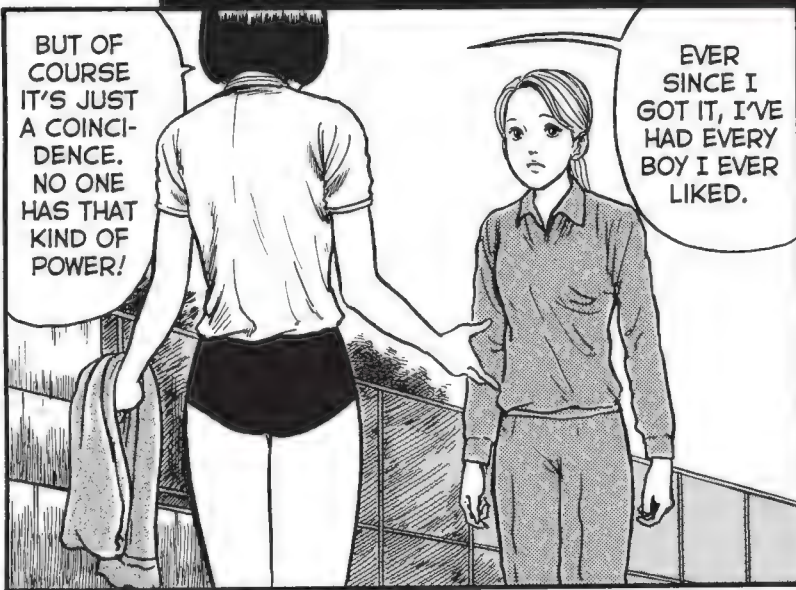
THE FUNNY THING IS, WE BECAME FRIENDS BECAUSE OF THAT.

WAAH!



...

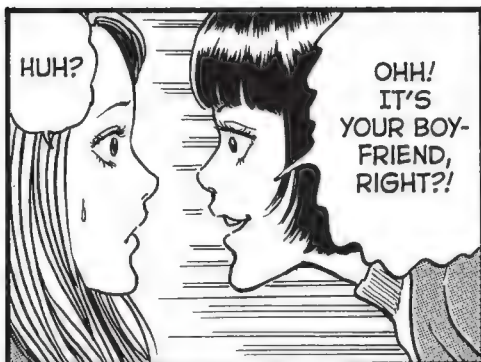
BUT OF COURSE IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE. NO ONE HAS THAT KIND OF POWER!



EVER SINCE I GOT IT, I'VE HAD EVERY BOY I EVER LIKED.

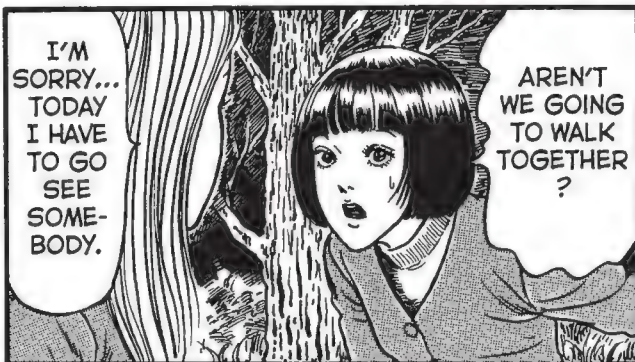


KIRIE,
WAIT!



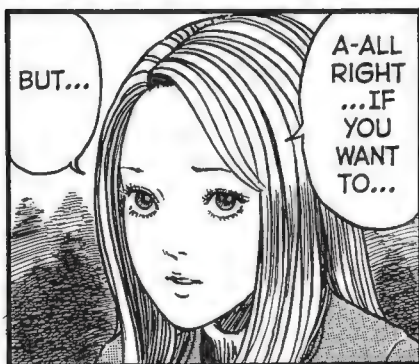
HUH?

OHH!
IT'S
YOUR BOY-
FRIEND,
RIGHT?!



I'M
SORRY...
TODAY
I HAVE
TO GO
SEE
SOME-
BODY.

AREN'T
WE GOING
TO WALK
TOGETHER
?



BUT...

A-ALL
RIGHT
...IF
YOU
WANT
TO...



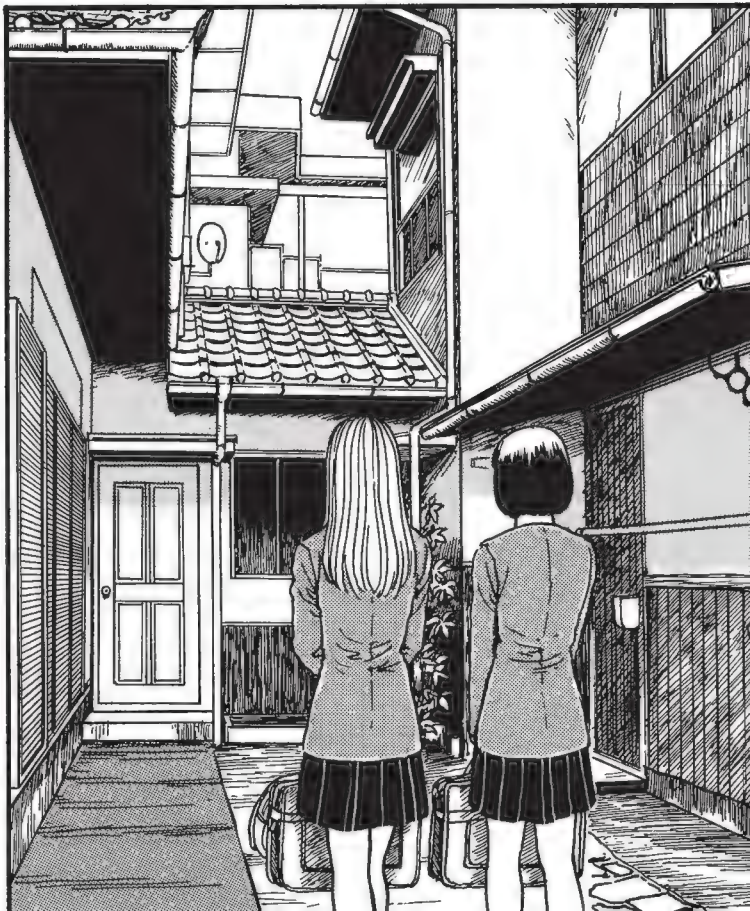
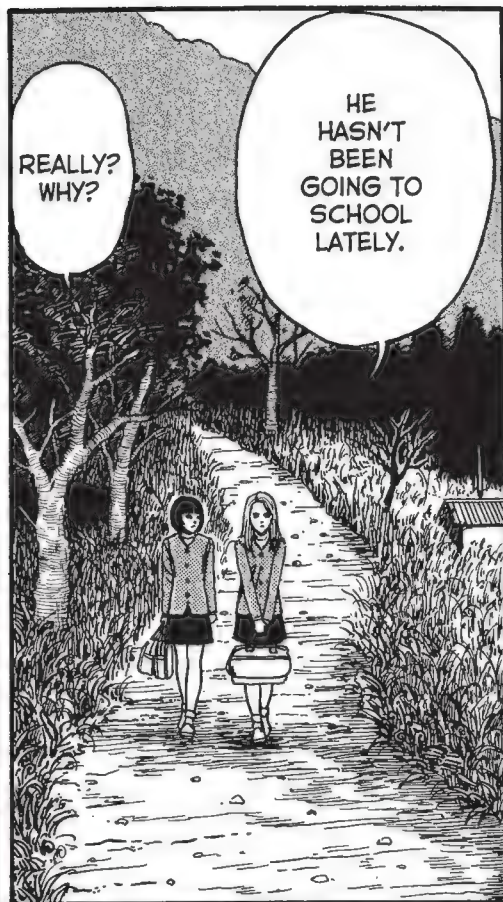
BUT
WHAT?



I MIGHT
HAVE SEEN
HIM AT THE
STATION
WITHOUT
KNOWING
IT!

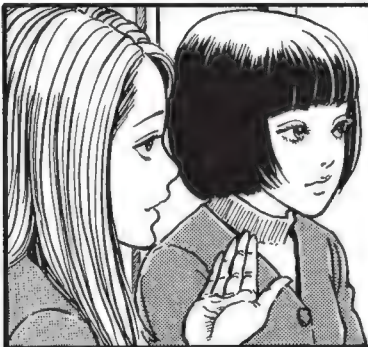
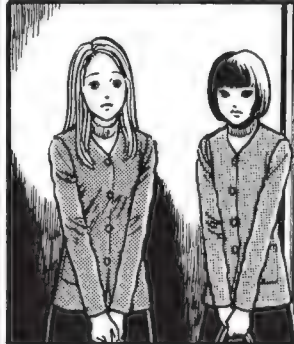
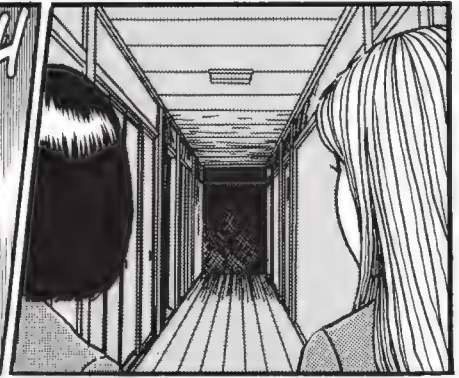
I
KNEW IT!
SHUICHI
SAITO!
DOESN'T
HE GO TO
MIDORIYAMA
HIGH
SCHOOL?

WHAT'S
HE LIKE?
WHY DON'T
YOU
INTRODUCE
HIM TO ME?
I WANT TO
MEET HIM
RIGHT
NOW!

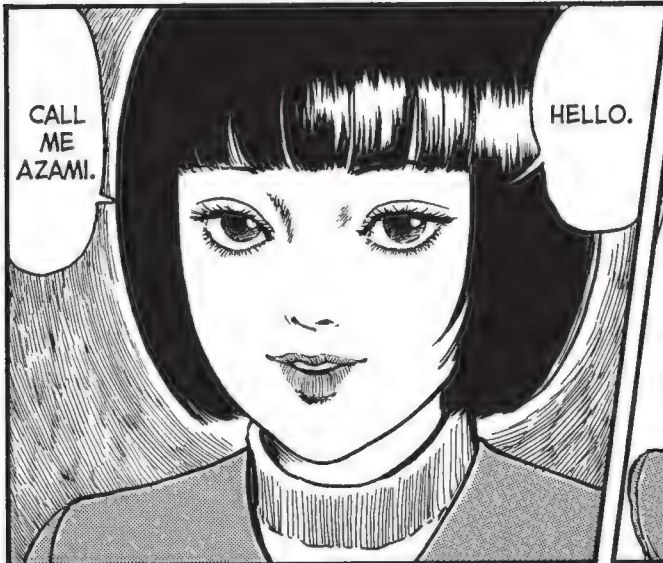




HEY...



SHUICHI,
THIS IS MY
CLASSMATE,
AZAMI
KUROTANI.

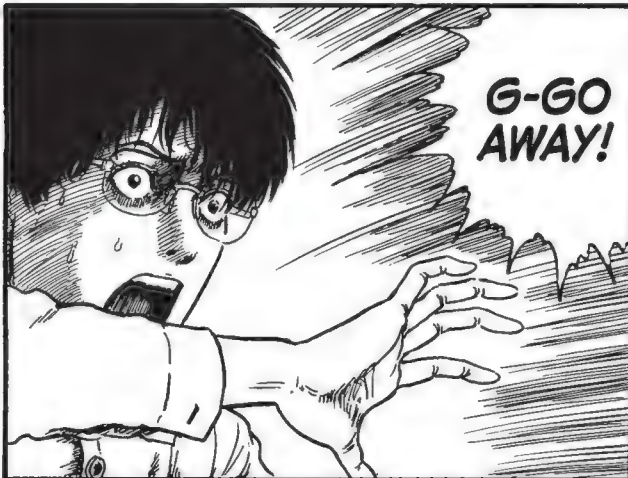
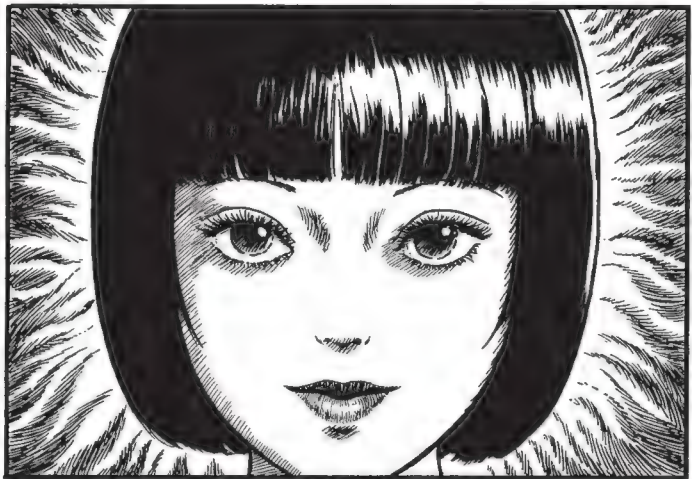
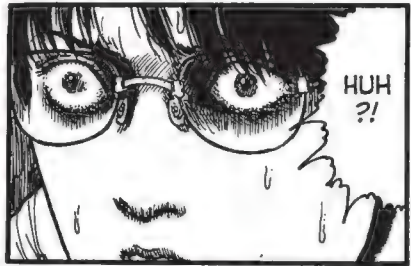


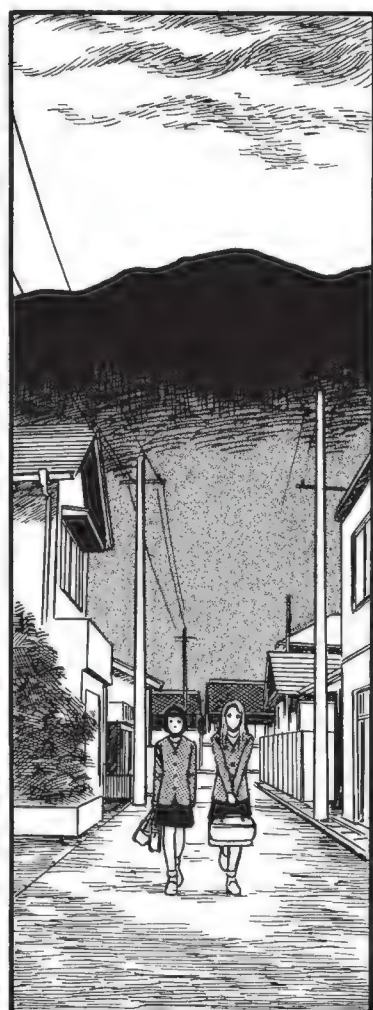
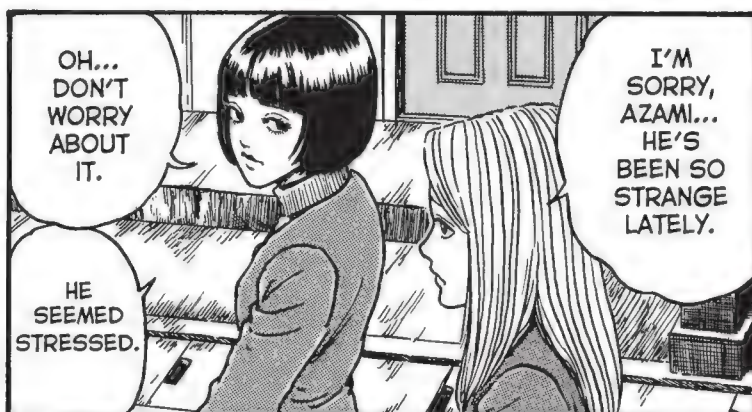
CALL
ME
AZAMI.

HELLO.



COME
ON
IN...







YOU
SHOCKED
AZAMI.

WHAT
WAS
WRONG
WITH
YOU
TODAY?

WHY'D
YOU
TREAT
HER LIKE
THAT?



HELLO,
SHUICHI?

IT'S
ME,
KIRIE.



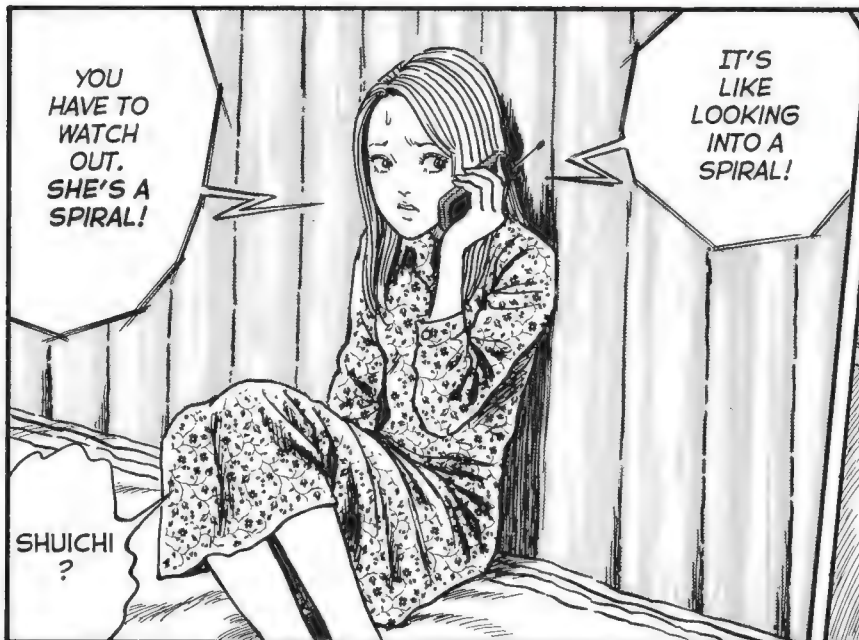
IT'S
LIKE
LOOKING
DOWN
FROM A
HIGH
PLACE...

THERE'S
SOMETHING
MESMERIZING
ABOUT HER.



WHAT
?

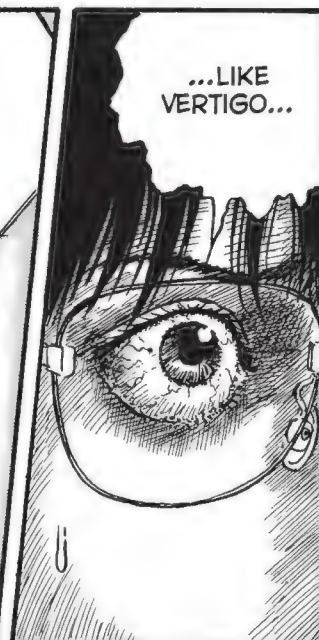
KIRIE,
YOU
DON'T
FEEL
IT?



YOU
HAVE TO
WATCH
OUT.
SHE'S A
SPIRAL!

IT'S
LIKE
LOOKING
INTO A
SPIRAL!

SHUICHI
?



...LIKE
VERTIGO...





WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE?

AAHH!



WHAT IS
IT ABOUT
ME THAT
YOU DON'T
LIKE?

YOU'RE
THE FIRST
BOY I'VE
EVER MET
WHO'S
TREATED ME
LIKE THIS.



HOW
COULD
YOU
REJECT
ME?

EVERY
BOY I'VE
EVER
MET HAS
FALLEN
FOR ME.

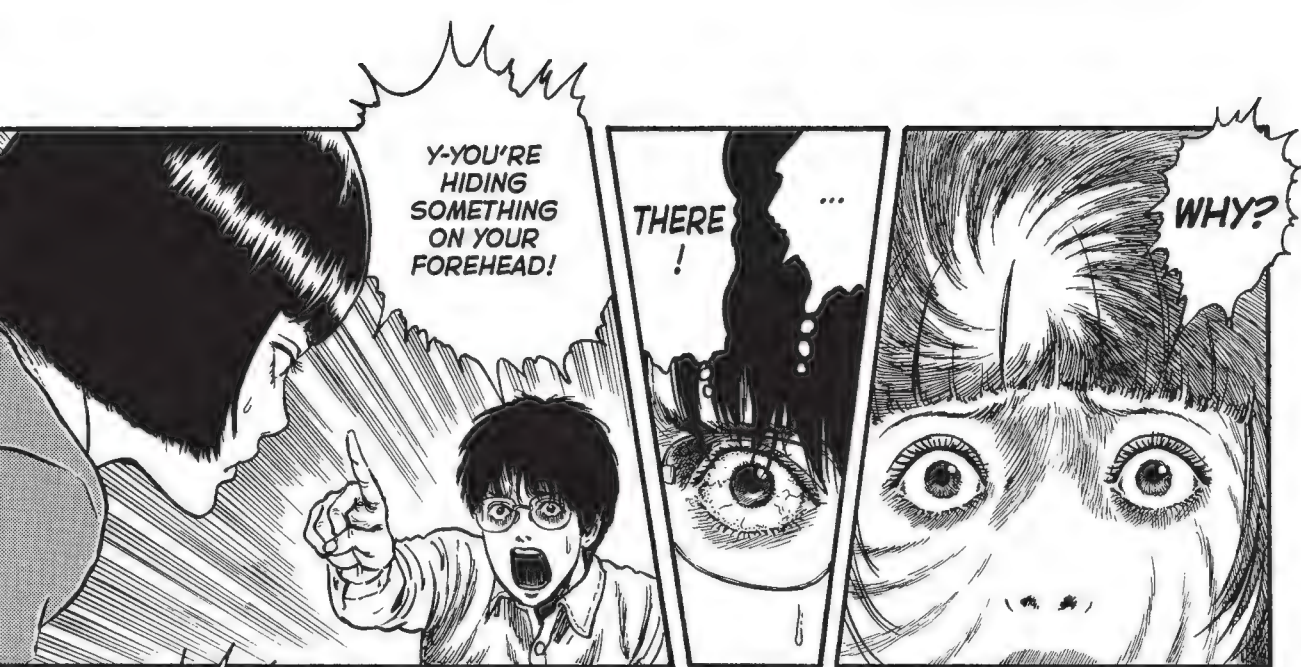


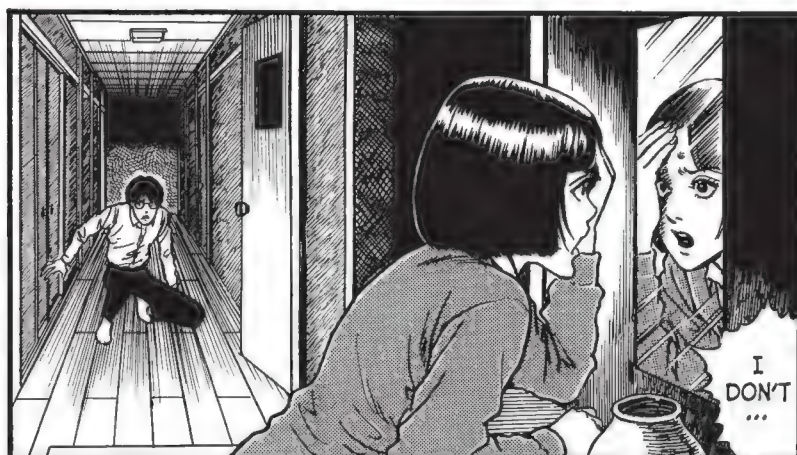
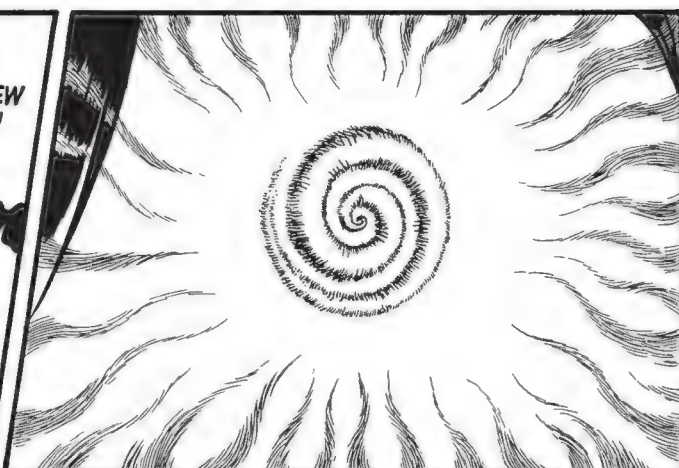
GET
OUT OF
KUROUZU-
CHO!

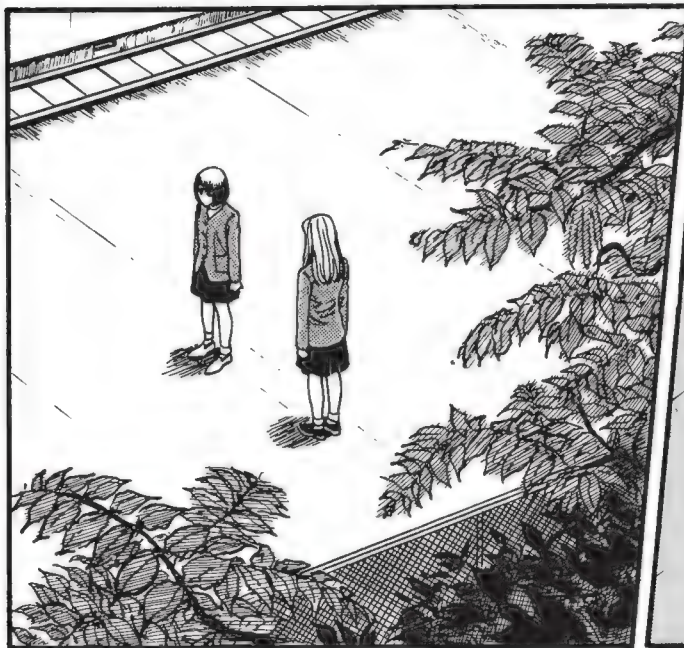
JUST
GO
AWAY!

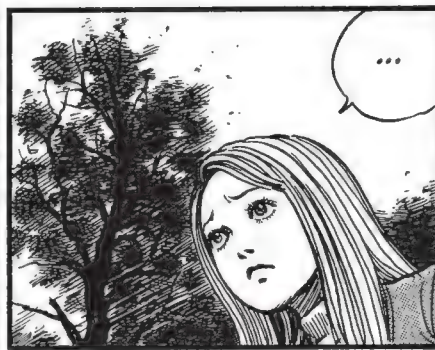


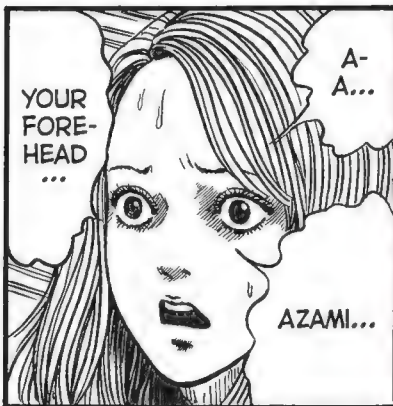
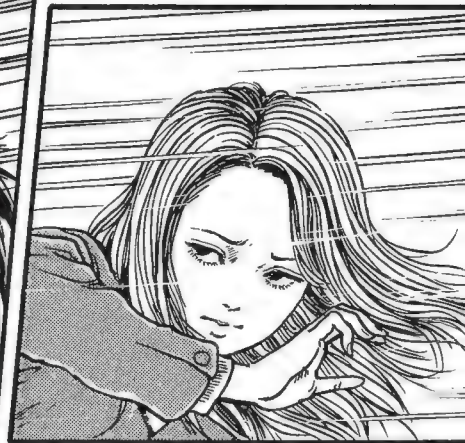
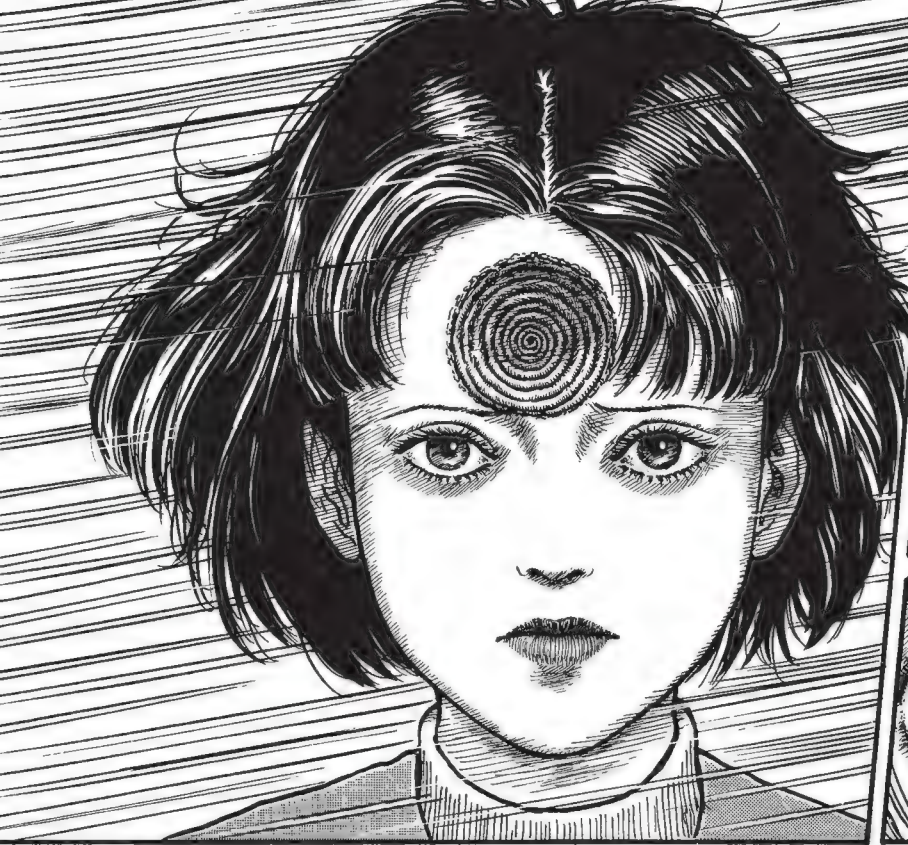
I
WILL
NOT.





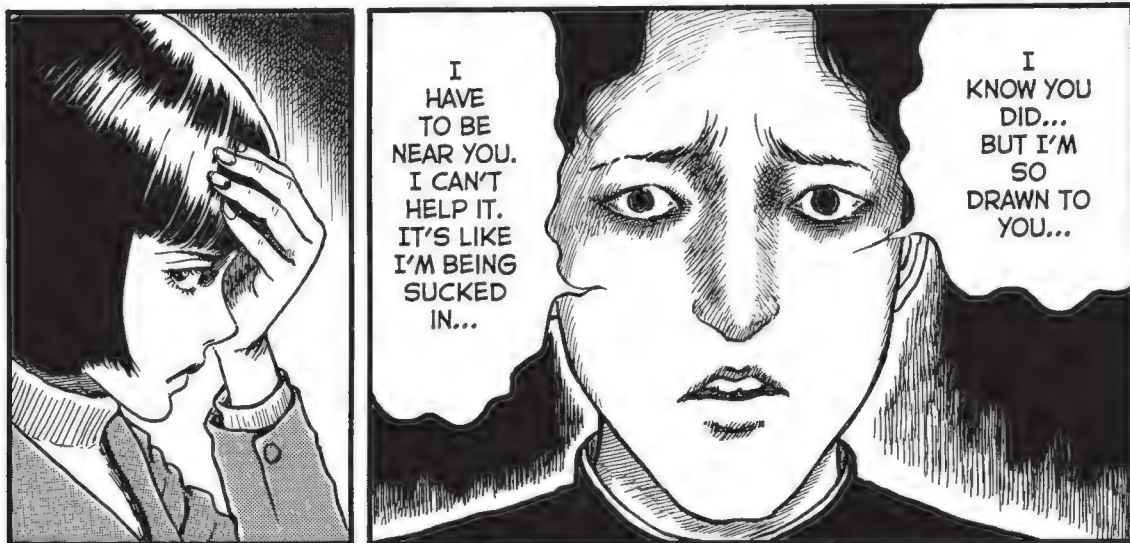
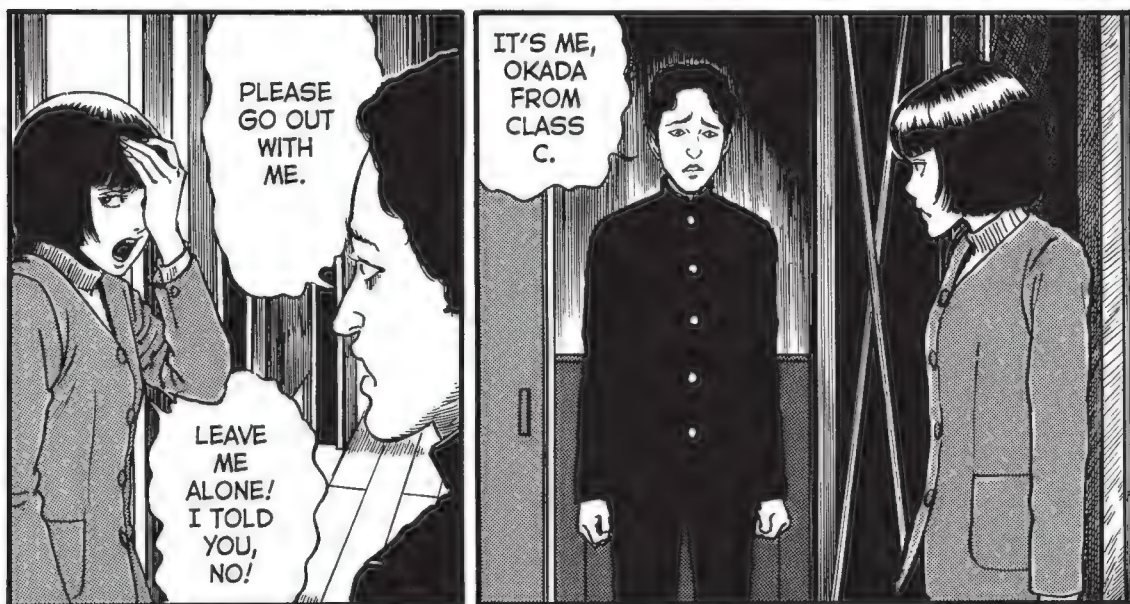






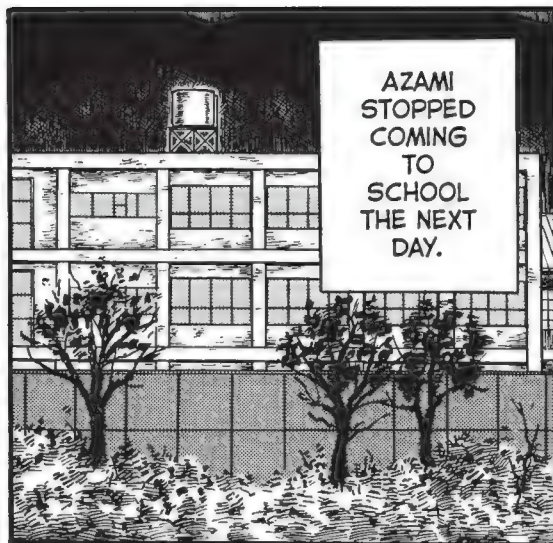
20



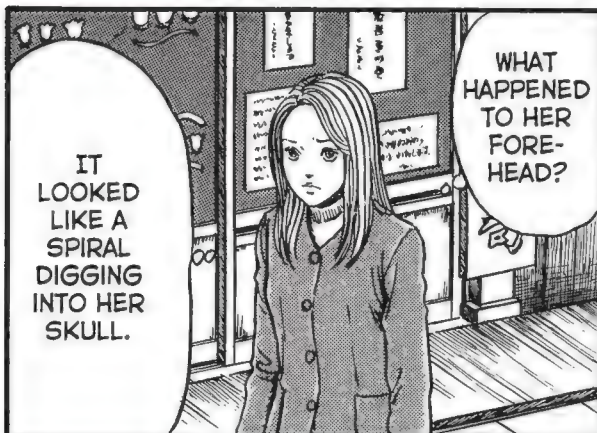




I
STOPPED
BY HER
STUDENT
APARTMENT,
BUT NO
ONE
ANSWERED
THE
DOOR.



AZAMI
STOPPED
COMING
TO
SCHOOL
THE NEXT
DAY.



IT
LOOKED
LIKE A
SPIRAL
DIGGING
INTO HER
SKULL.

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO HER
FORE-
HEAD?

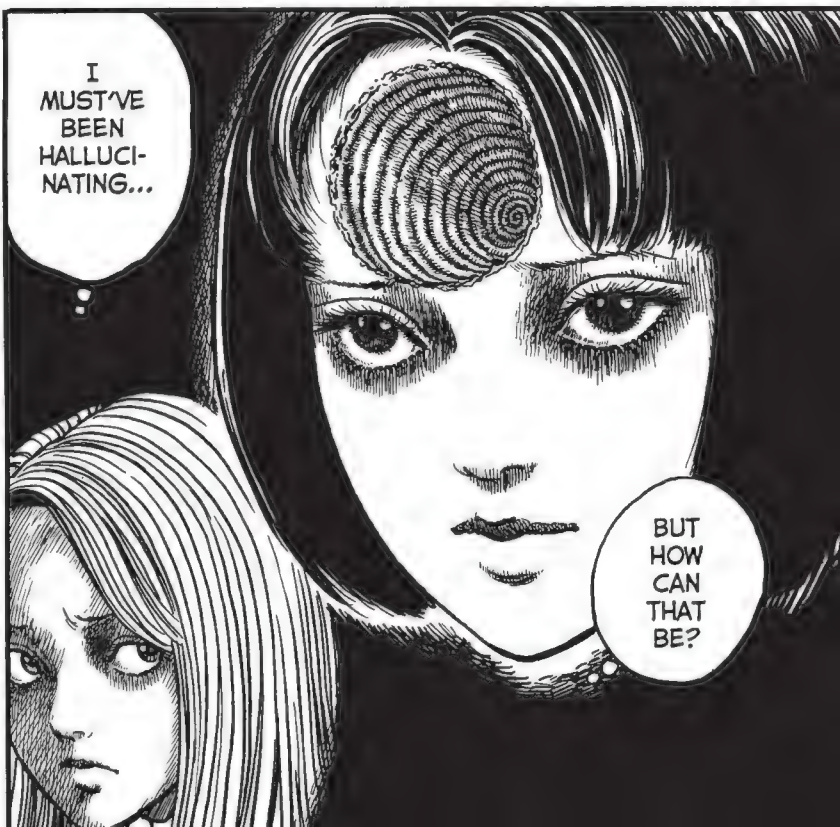


I COULD
TELL SHE
WAS IN
HER ROOM
THOUGH.



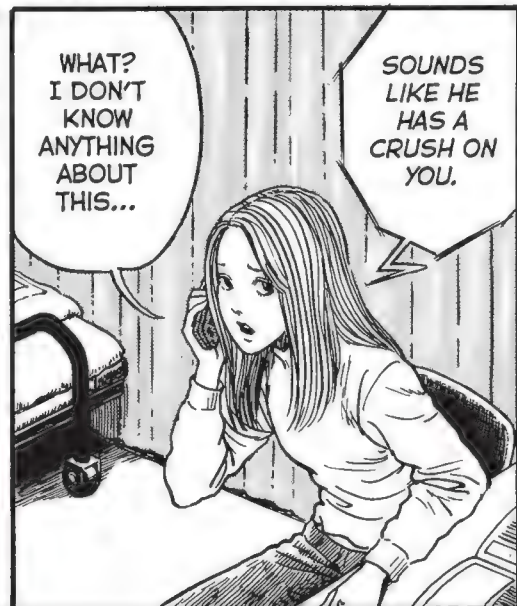
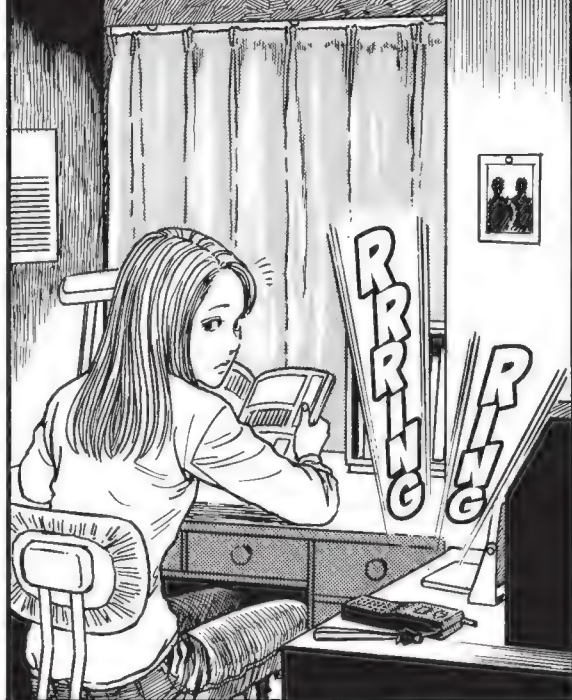
THEN
...

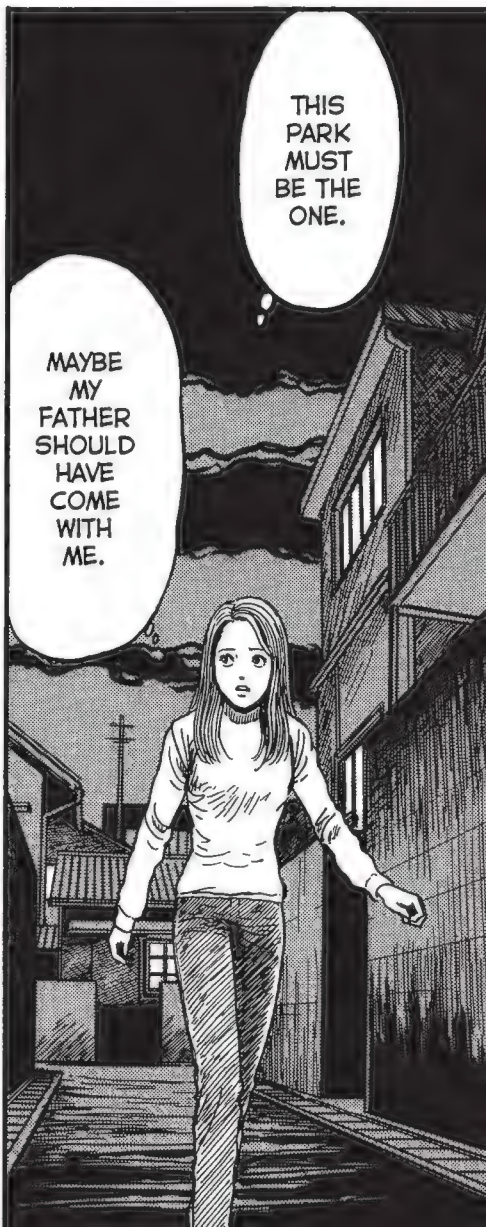
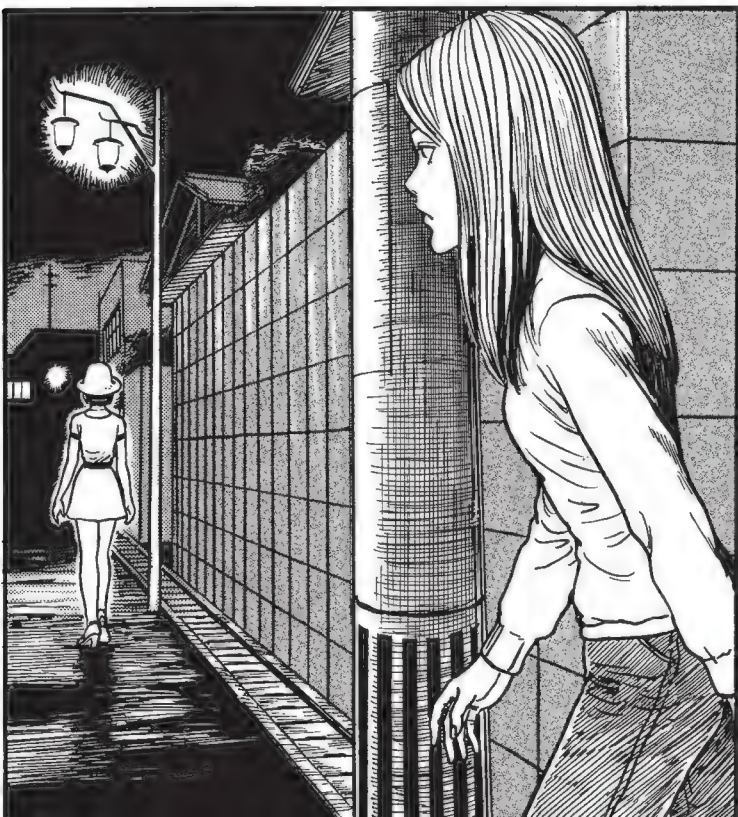
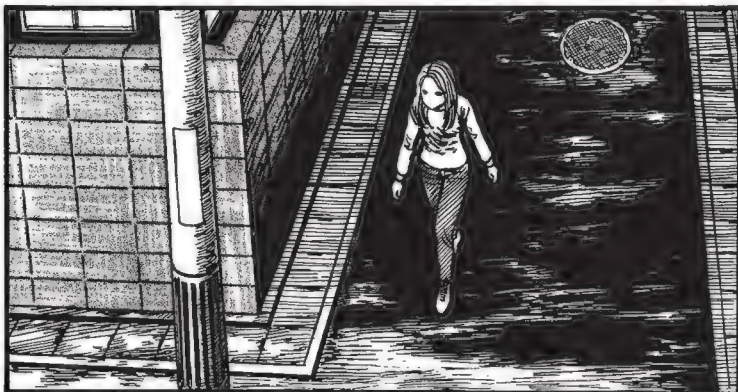
...SEVERAL
DAYS
LATER...

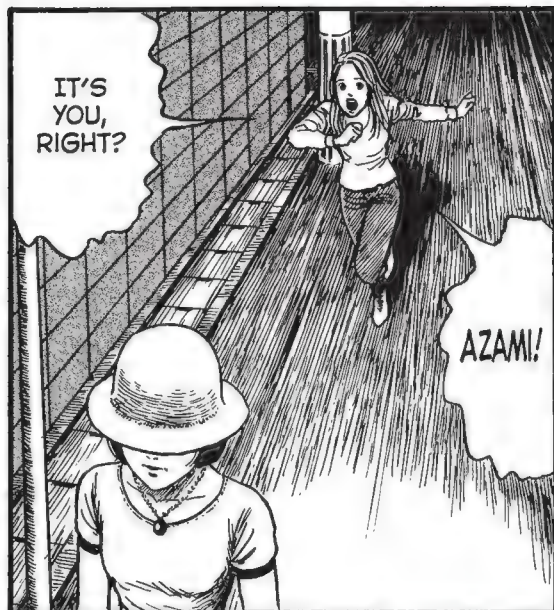


I
MUST'VE
BEEN
HALLUCI-
NATING...

BUT
HOW
CAN
THAT
BE?







IT'S
YOU,
RIGHT?

AZAMI!



...THAT
MUST
BE
AZAMI.
WHY IS
SHE
HERE?

WHY,
THAT...



CAN
YOU TAKE
A LOOK?



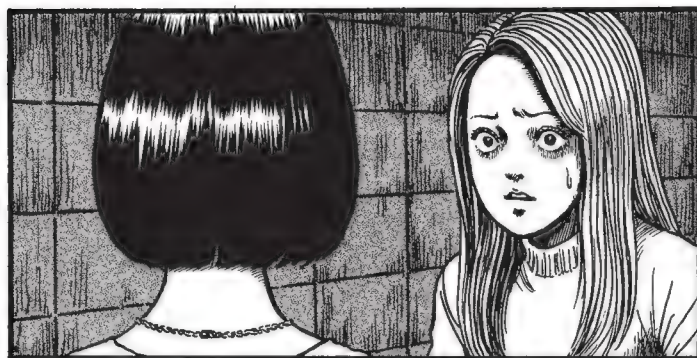
...I
CAN'T
SEEM
TO
FOCUS
...

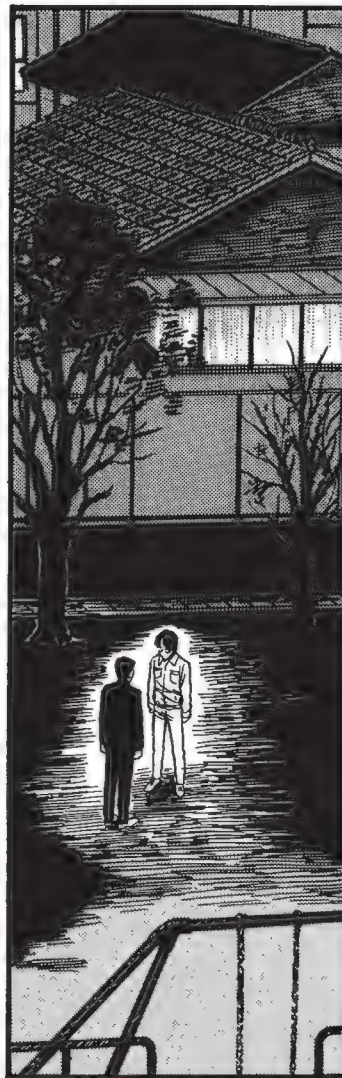
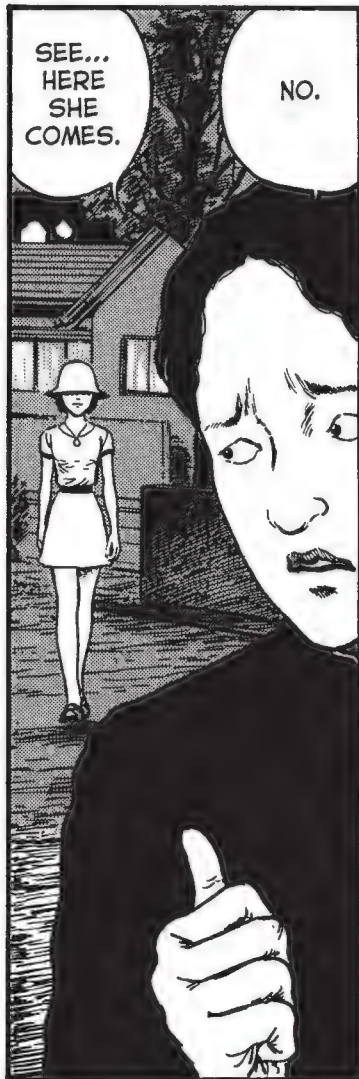
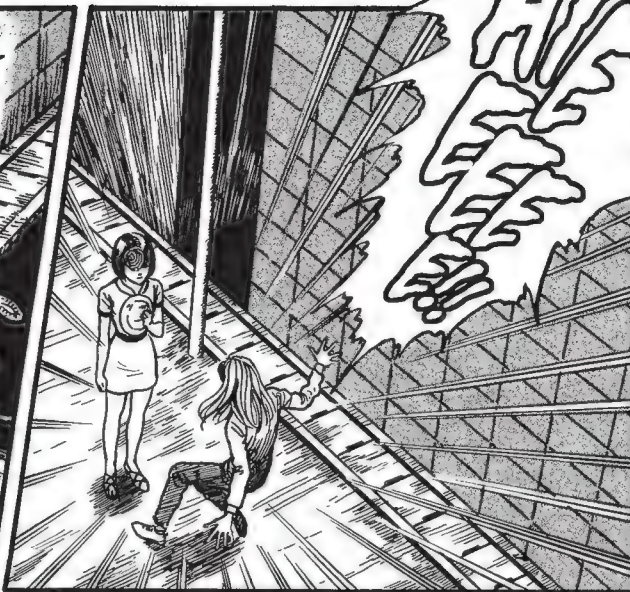
KIRIE...
I FEEL
STRANGE
...MY
RIGHT
EYE...

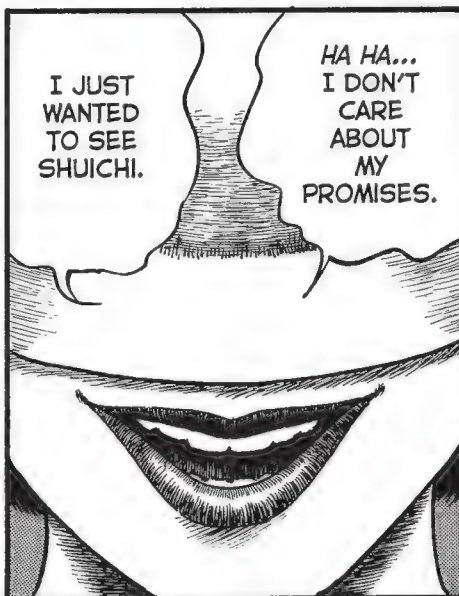
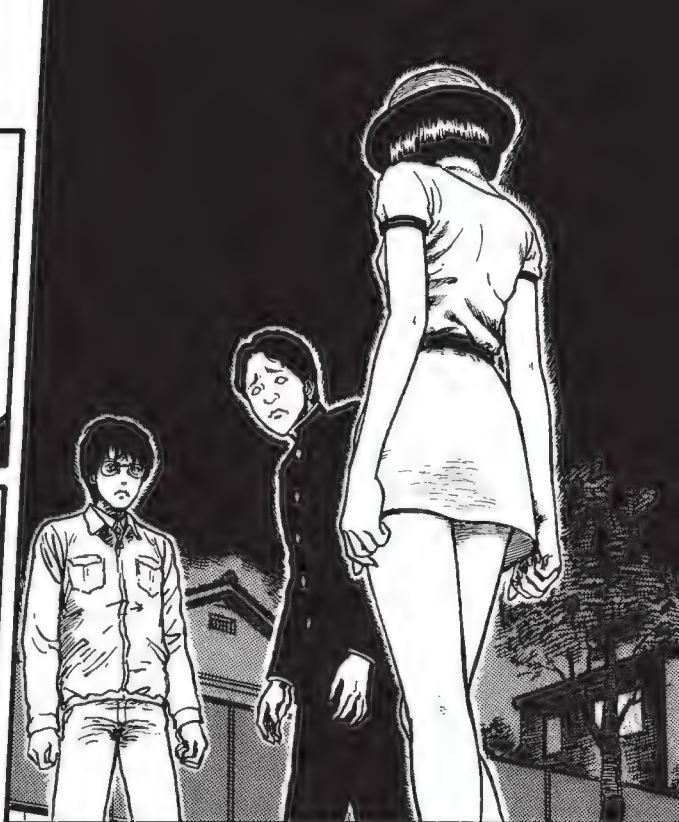
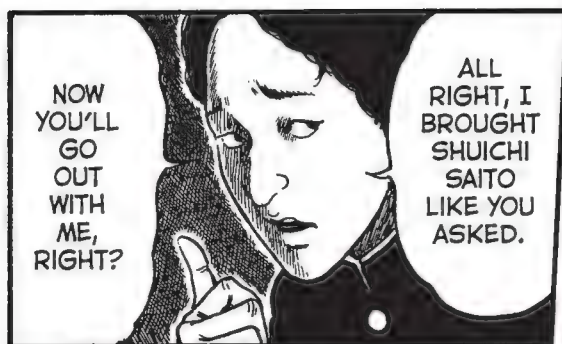


I
KNEW
IT!

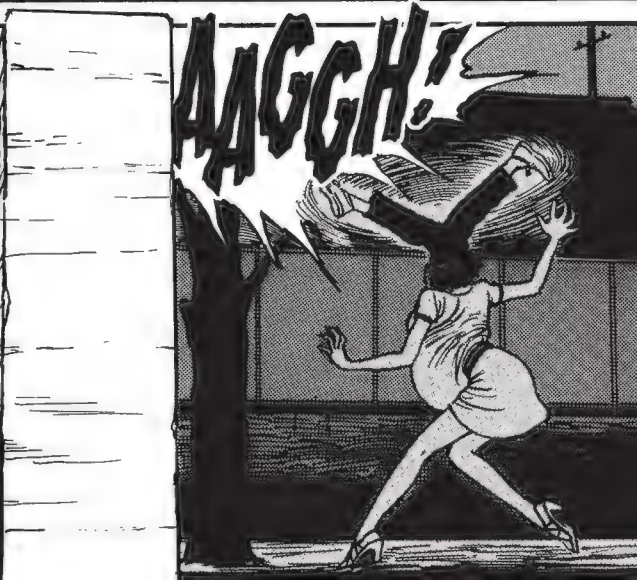
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?
I WAS
SO
WORRIED
ABOUT
YOU!

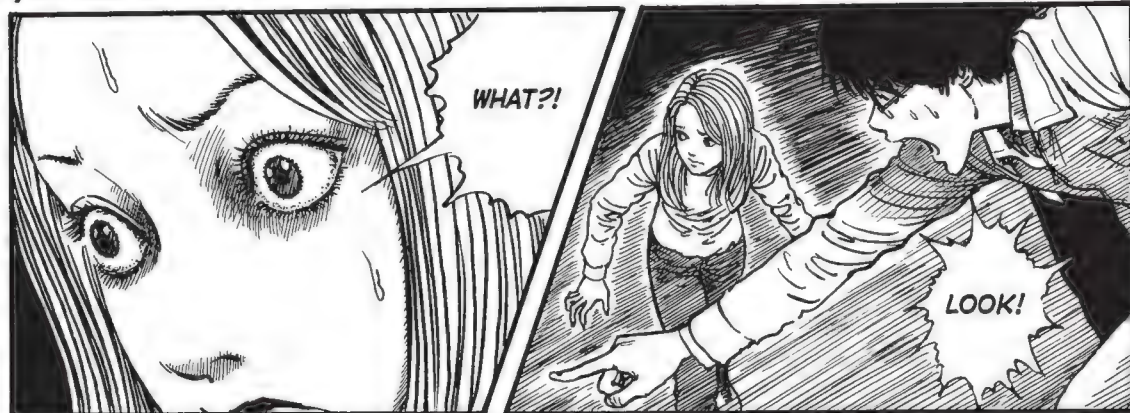
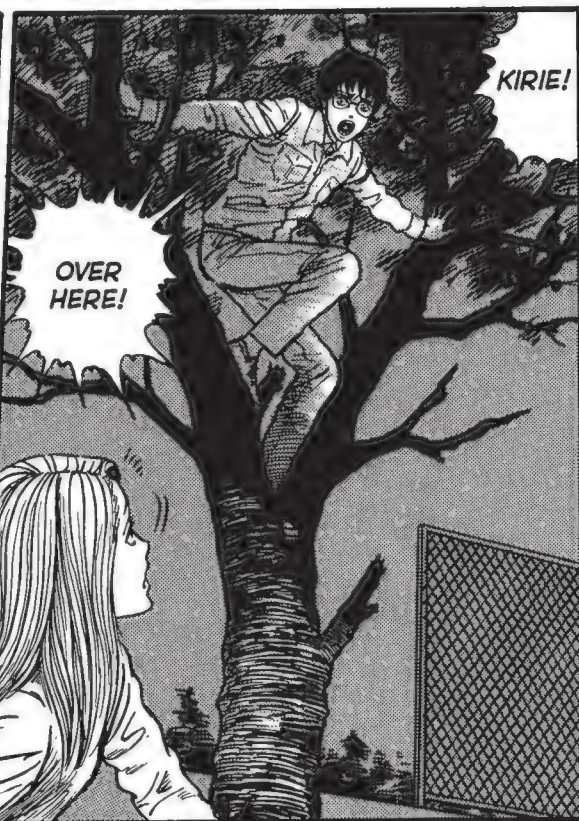
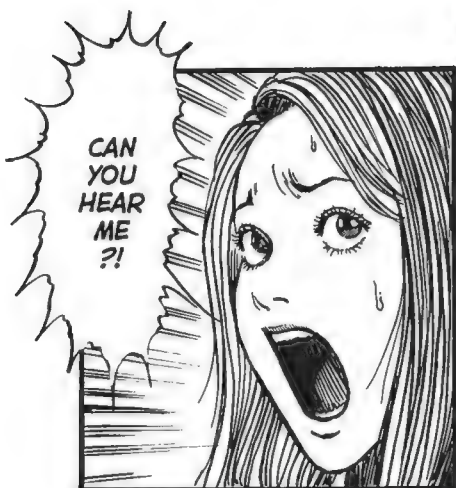














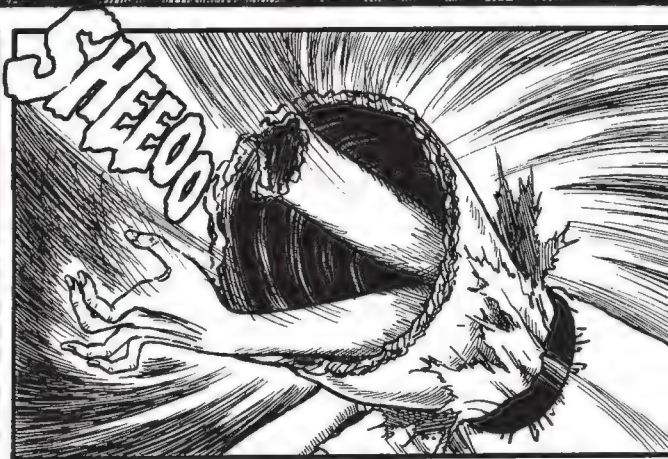
SHE'S
BEING
CONSUMED
BY THE
SPIRAL
THAT
APPEARED
ON HER
BODY!!

LOOK!
LOOK
WHAT'S
HAPPENING!



...WITHOUT
LEAVING A
TRACE
BEHIND.

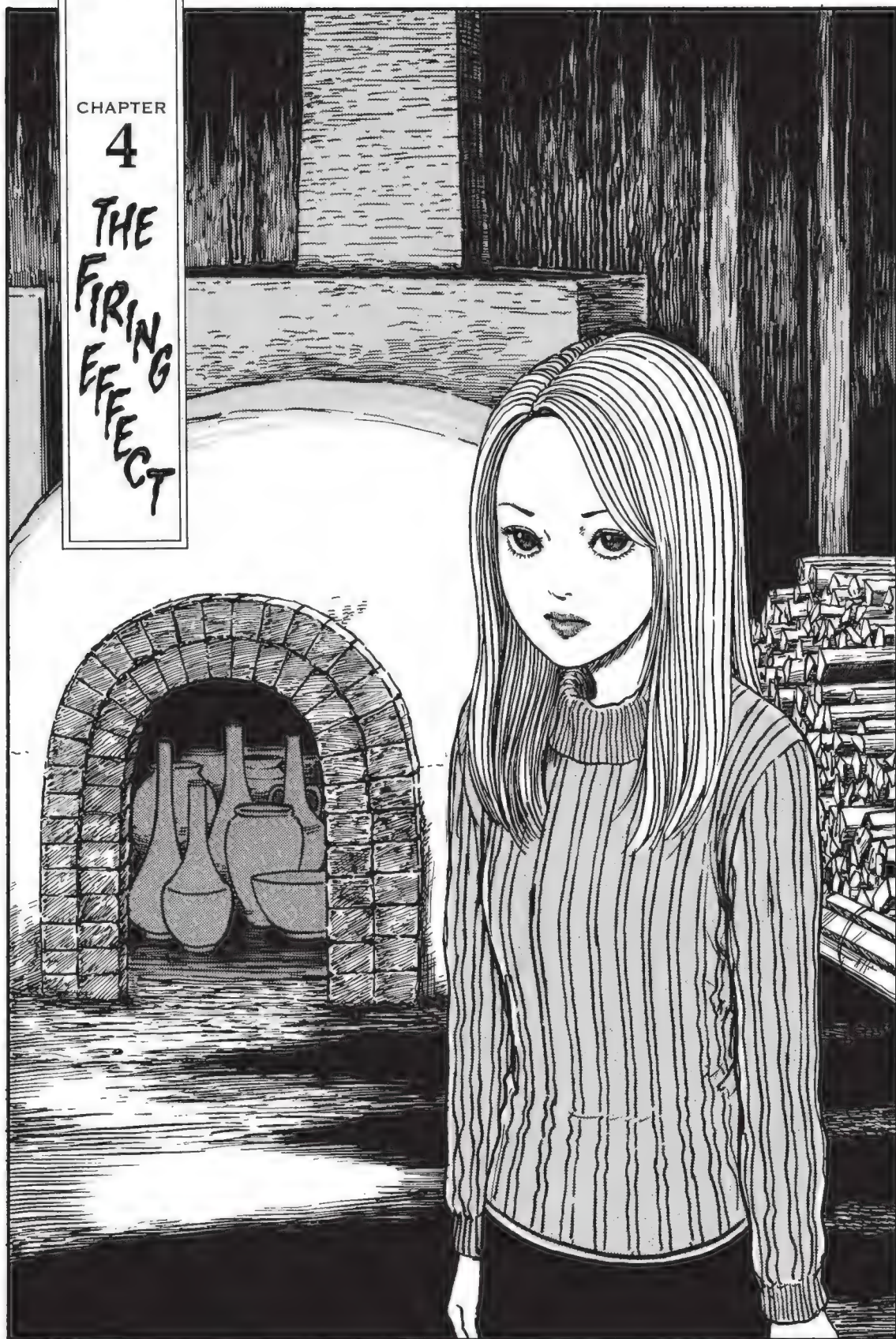
AZAMI
KUROTANI
WAS
DEVOURED
FROM HEAD
TO TOE...

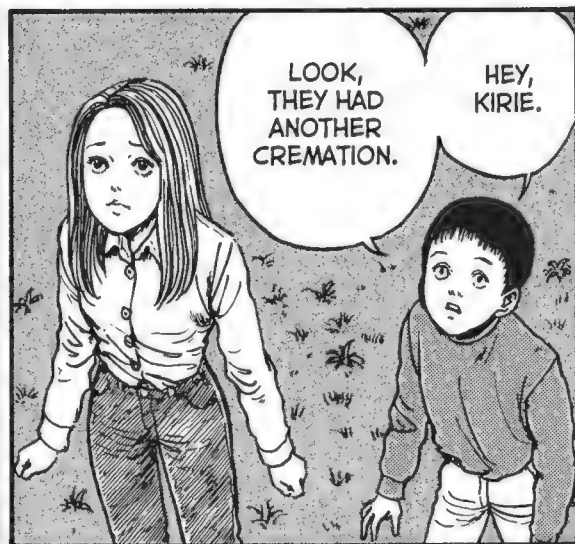
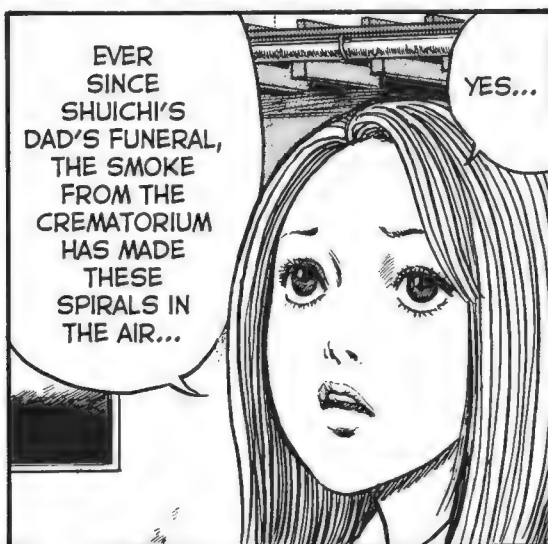


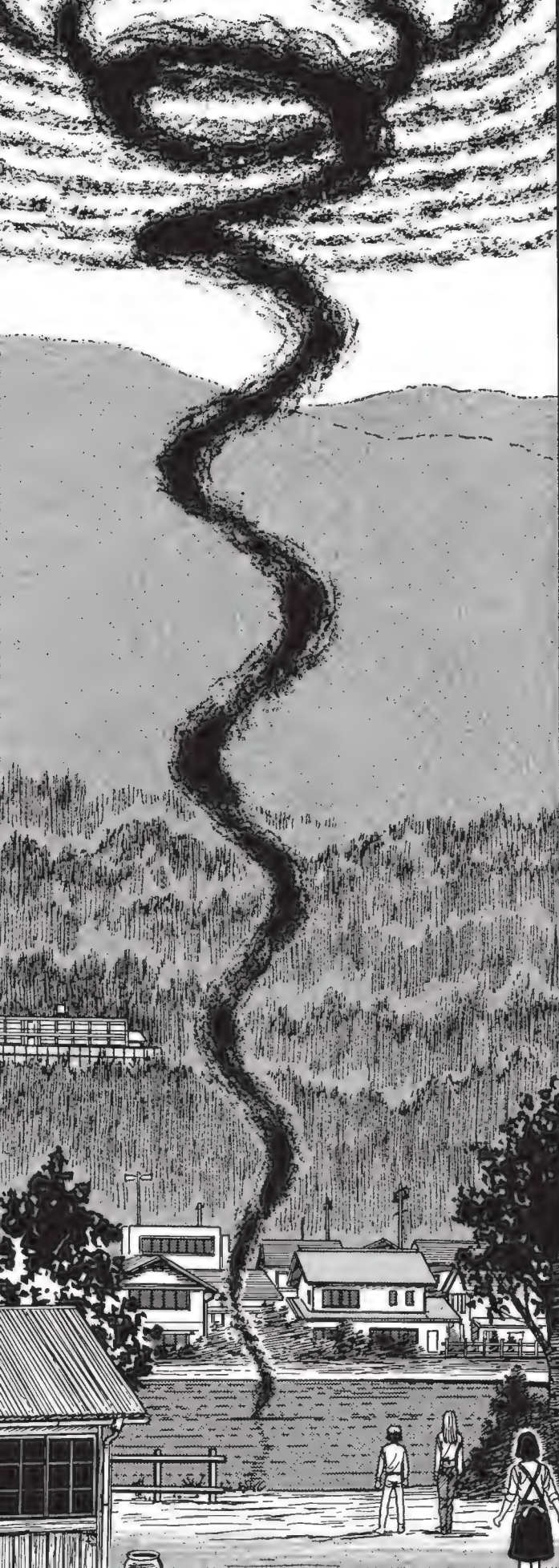
CHAPTER

4

THE
FIRING
EFFECT

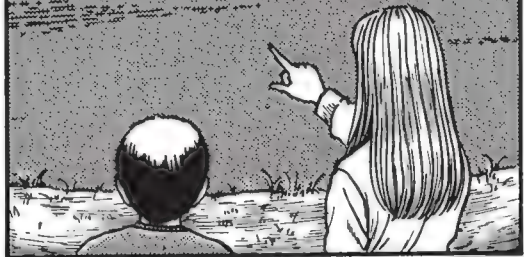






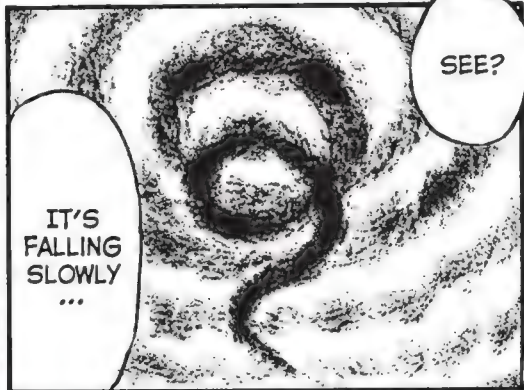
SOON IT'LL
FALL INTO
DRAGONFLY
POND.

LOOK,
MITSUO...

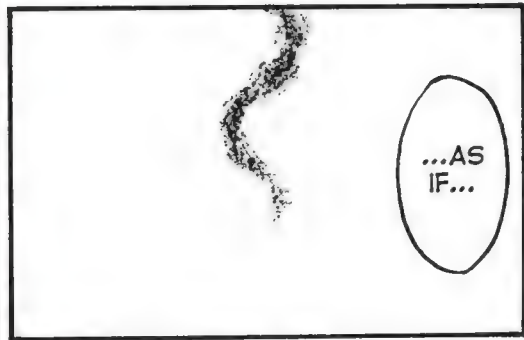


SEE?

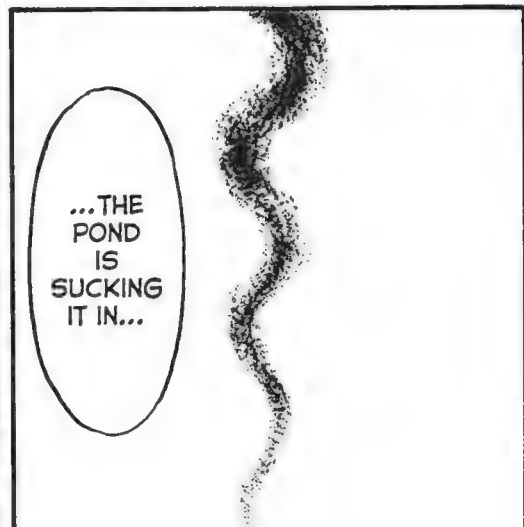
IT'S
FALLING
SLOWLY
...

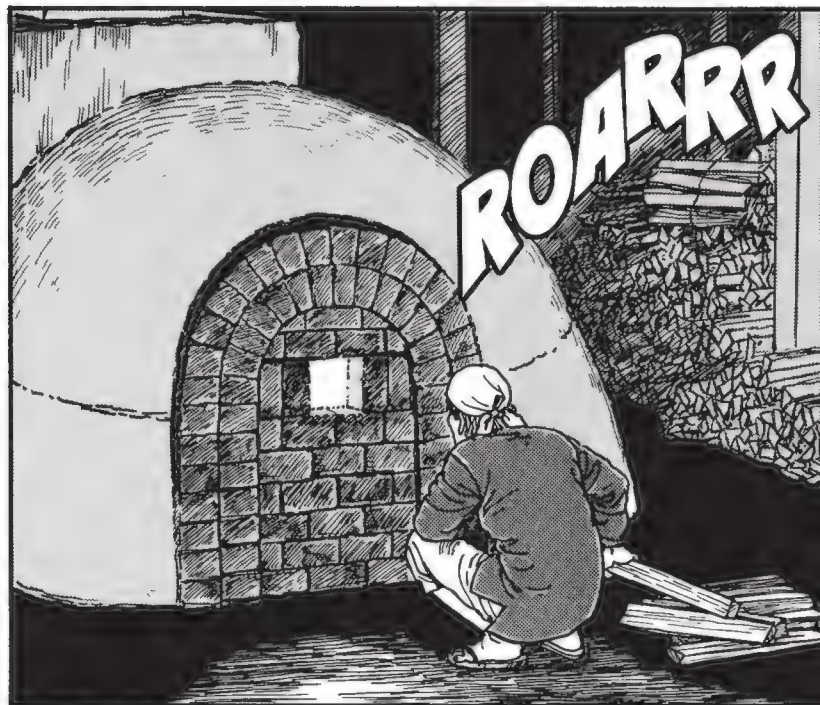
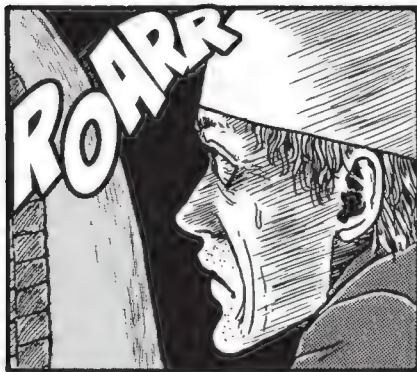
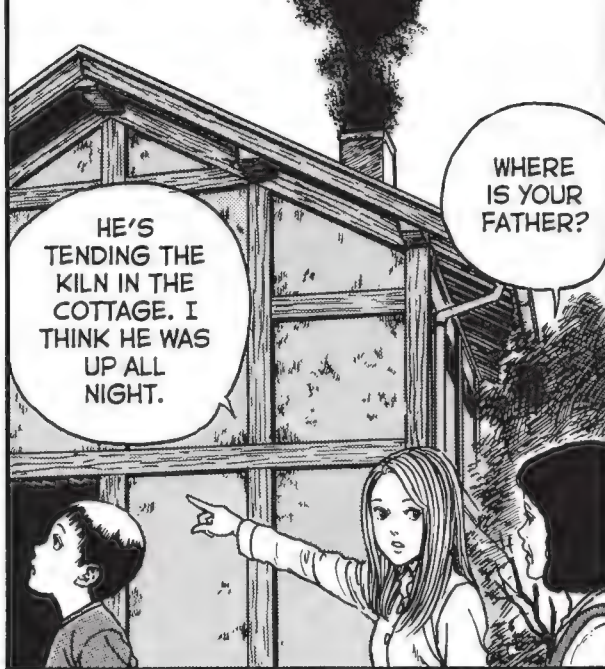


...AS
IF...



...THE
POND
IS
SUUCKING
IT IN...







BUT...

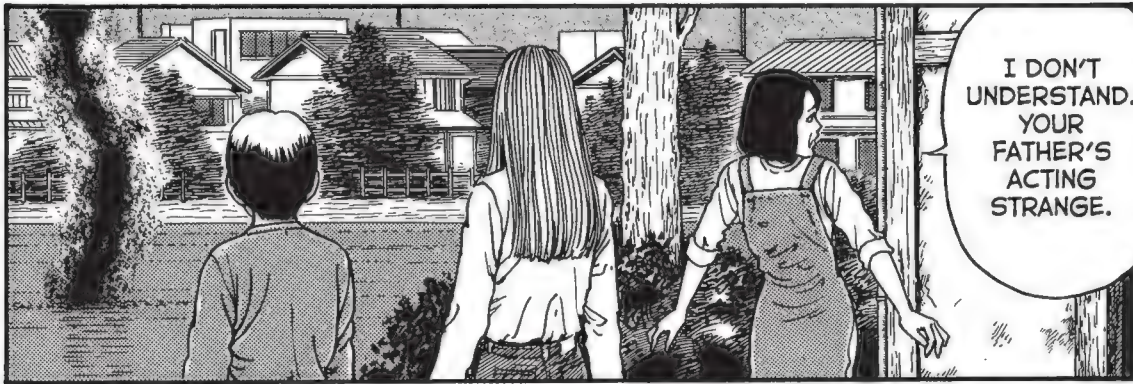
DON'T
LOOK
INSIDE
THE
KILN!

JUST
GO BACK
TO THE
HOUSE!



WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH THE
FIRE?

YOU'LL GET
SICK IF YOU
DON'T GET
SOME REST
SOON.



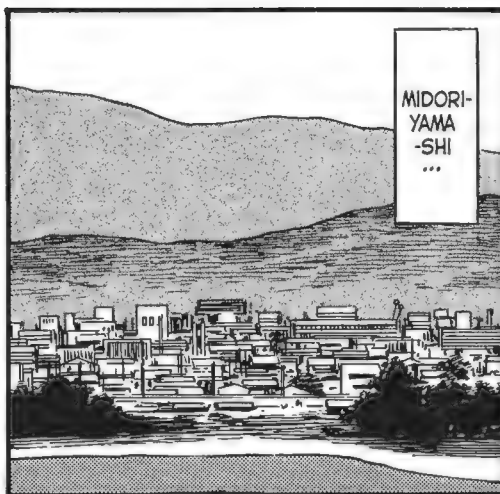
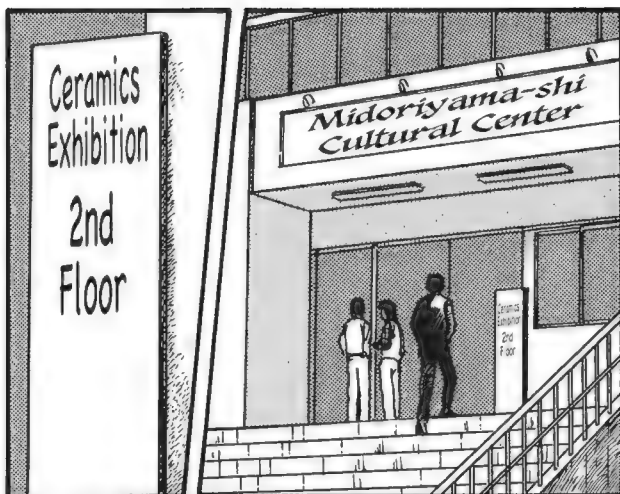
I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.
YOUR
FATHER'S
ACTING
STRANGE.

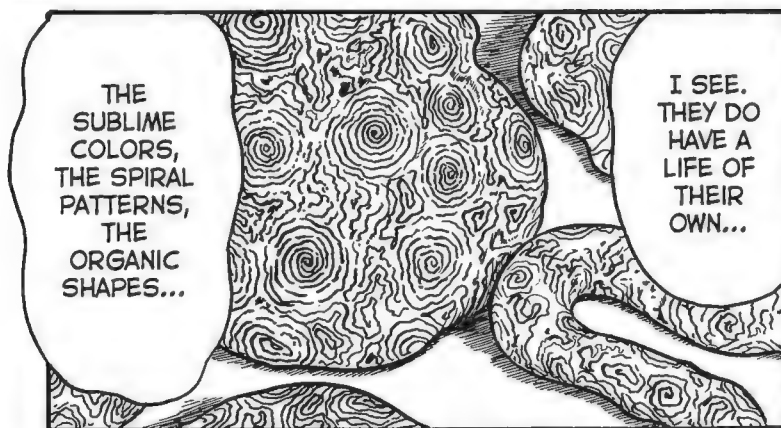
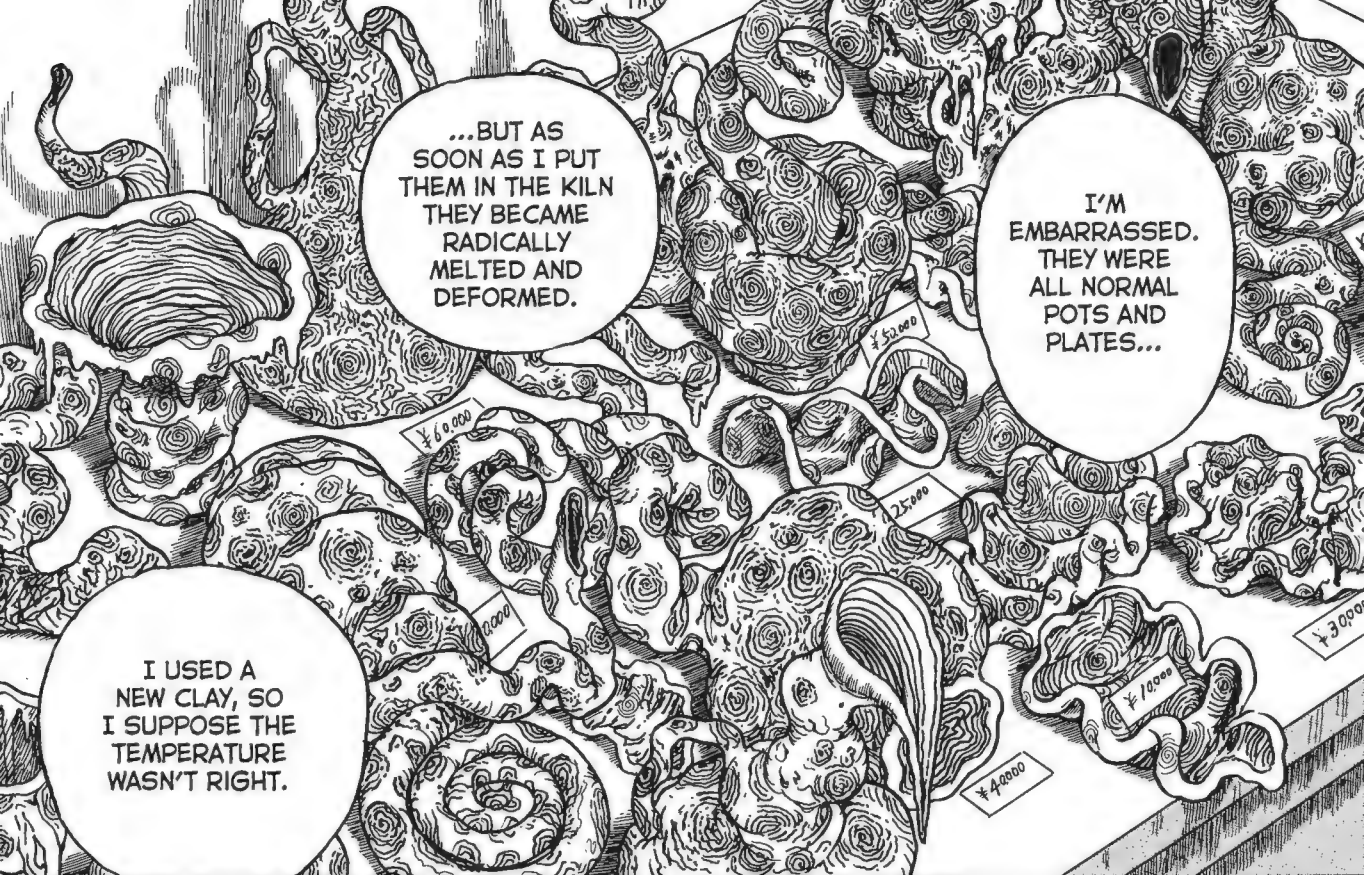


EVEN
THE
SMOKE
FROM
FATHER'S
KILN IS
SWIRLING!



L-LOOK!





I'D
PREFER
TO
KEEP
THAT
A
SECRET.

HEH
HEH
HEH
...

...WHAT
KIND
OF NEW
CLAY
DID
YOU
USE?

BY
THE
WAY...

WELL, IT'S
NOT SURPRISING.
I MEAN, THIS
STUFF ISN'T VERY
PRACTICAL.

THEY DON'T
KNOW ART
WHEN THEY
SEE IT.

SO...

...YOU
DIDN'T
SELL
A
SINGLE
PIECE?

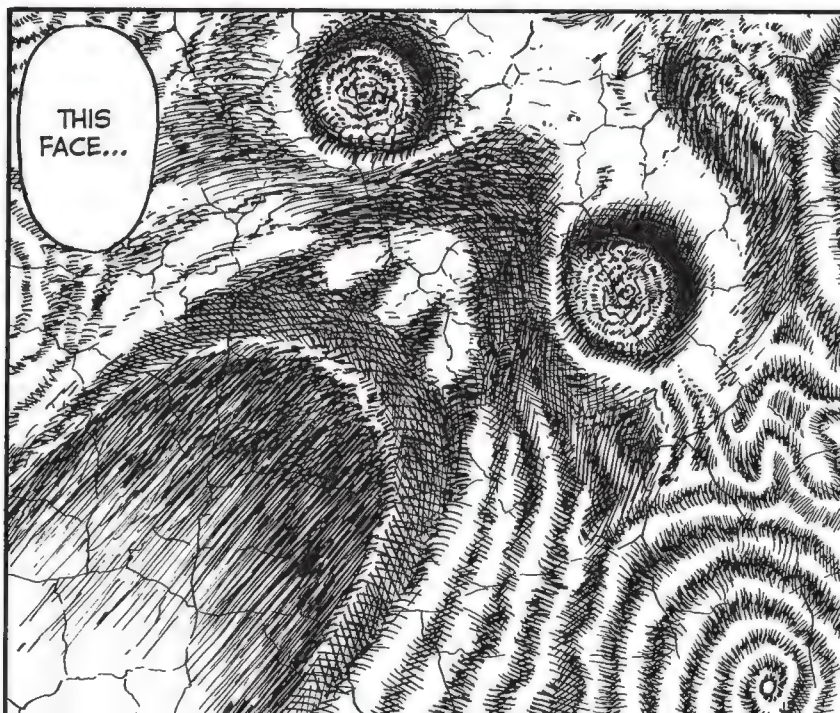
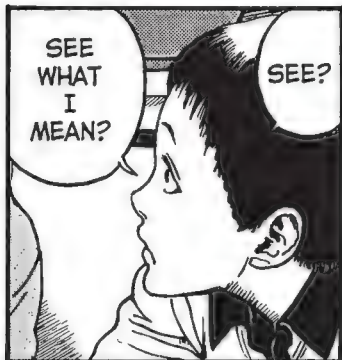
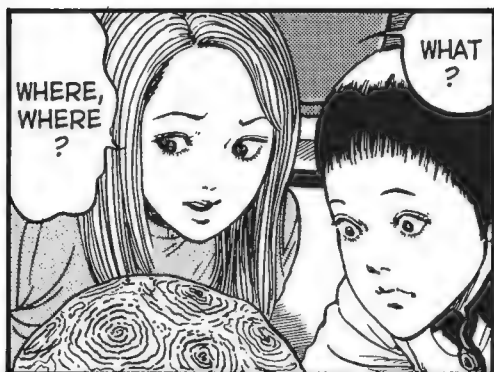
THEY
LOOK
WEIRD
TOO.

I
DON'T
KNOW.

HOW
COULD
THESE
PATTERNS
FORM
NATURALLY?

YOU'RE
SUCH A
HARSH
CRITIC,
KIRIE.

I'VE
NEVER
SEEN
ANY-
THING
LIKE
THIS.





IT LOOKS LIKE A WOMAN!



UH...



...SHU-ICHI'S MOTHER AND FATHER?

DON'T YOU THINK THEY LOOK LIKE...

DAD...

MOM...



I DON'T KNOW. IT MUST BE A COINCIDENCE.

DEAR, WHAT IS THIS?

THIS IS HORRIBLE.



THEY DO LOOK LIKE THEM!

Y-YOU'RE RIGHT!



DON'T YOU THINK SO, MOM?

OH, PLEASE...



EACH
HAD BEEN
CREMATED
IN
KUROUZU-
CHO.



THERE
WERE
FOUR
FACES
IN ALL.

THEIR
SMOKE
AND
ASH
HAD
FORMED
THE
SPIRALS...

THE TWO
NEW FACES
WERE
IDENTIFIED
AS CITIZENS
WHO HAD
RECENTLY
DIED.



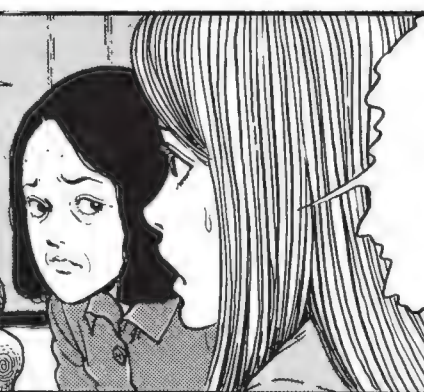
BUT
I
DIDN'T
DO
ANY-
THING!

HOW
COULD
YOU MAKE
SOMETHING
SO
VICIOUS?

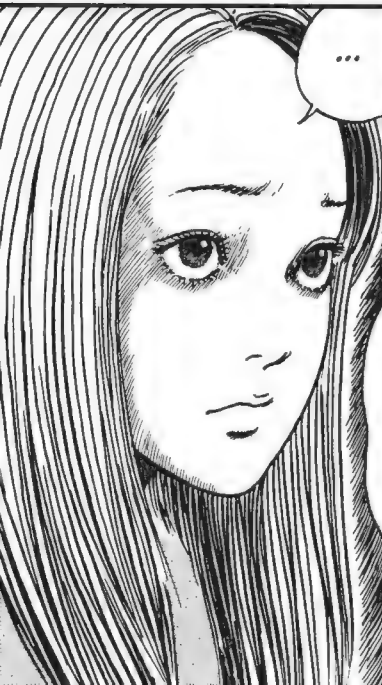
HERE'S
ANOTHER
ONE!



HOW
COULD
THIS
HAPPEN?



WHAT'S GOING
ON, DAD? WHY
WOULD THEIR
FACES APPEAR
ON YOUR
POTTERY?

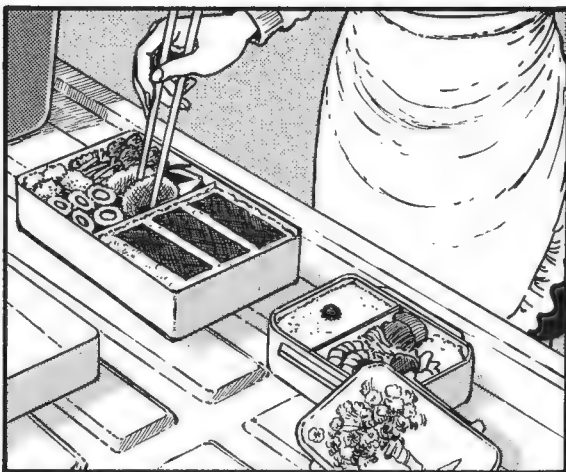


...CERAMICS ARE
MADE FROM EARTH
AND FIRE. IN
OTHER WORDS, IT'S
THE WORK OF
NATURE. WE TRY
OUR BEST...

...WITH HUMAN
HANDS, BUT
SOMETIMES NATURE
CAN CREATE THINGS
BEYOND OUR
IMAGINATION. AFTER
ALL, MOST SHAPES
ARE REALLY PATTERNS,
BUT WE CAN ONLY SEE
A PIECE OF THEM
AT A TIME...



I DON'T
REALLY
KNOW,
BUT...



NO.
AND I DON'T
THINK
HE'S BEEN
EATING
PROPERLY.

SO IS
SHUICHI
STILL NOT
GOING TO
SCHOOL?



YOU
SHUT
UP.

HURRY
UP
AND GO
TO
SCHOOL.

YOU STILL
MAKING
LUNCH FOR
THAT
WEIRDO?



WELL
...

OKAY.

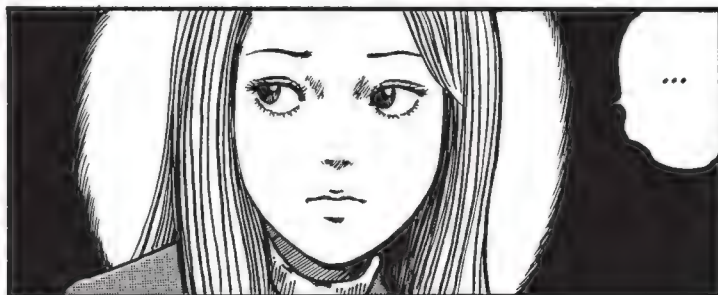
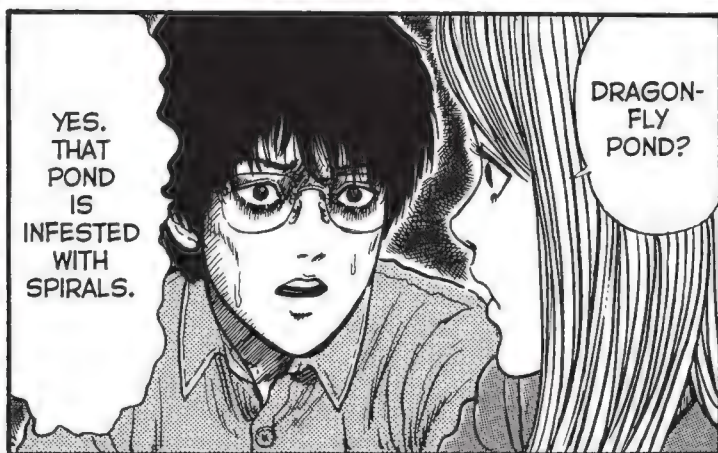
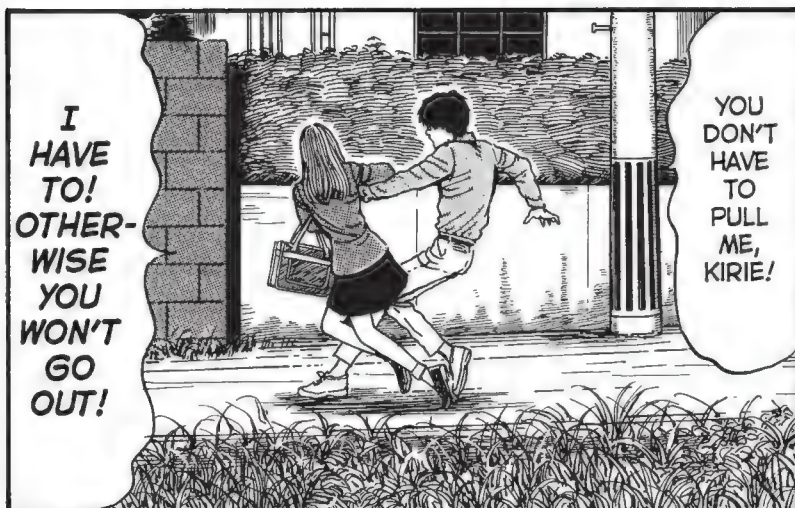


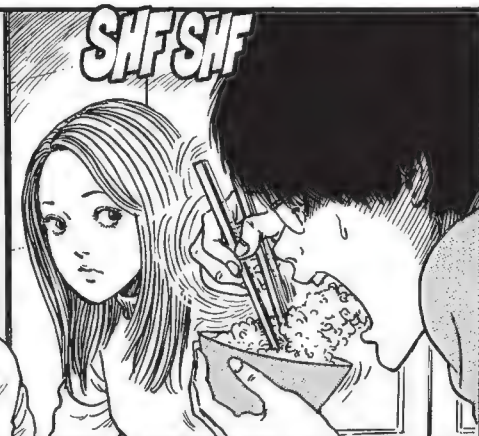
BUT HE HAS
TO EAT A BIG,
HEALTHY MEAL
ONCE IN A
WHILE.

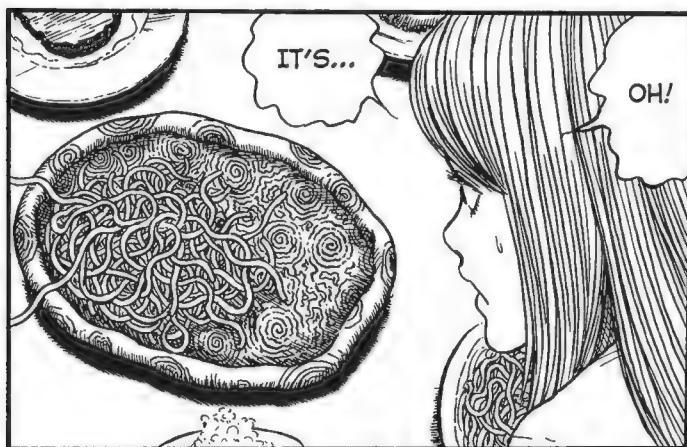
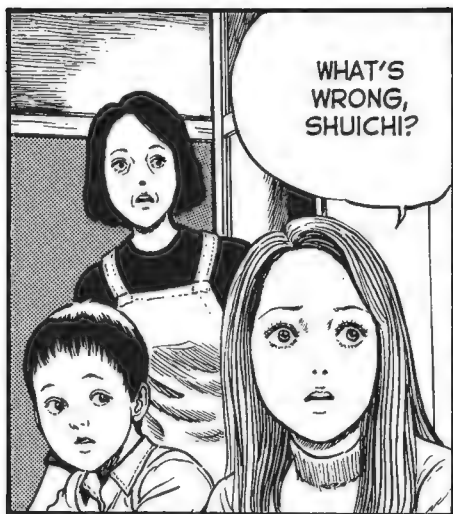
WHY DON'T
WE HAVE HIM
OVER FOR
DINNER?
YOUR FATHER
WOULD LIKE
TO SEE HIM
TOO.



THAT'S
WHY I'M
DOING
THIS FOR
HIM.









I
THOUGHT
SHUICHI,
IF ANYONE,
WOULD
LIKE IT.

TWISTED?
IT'S A
WORK OF
ART.



WHAT?!
HOW COULD
YOU GIVE
HIM THAT
TWISTED
THING?

WELL, THAT
PLATE WAS
FLAT ENOUGH
TO EAT ON, SO
I BROUGHT IT OUT
ESPECIALLY FOR
SHUICHI.



...AND
THIS IS
THE
WORK I
CAME
UP
WITH!

HE WAS
A HUGE
INFLUENCE.
BEING AN
ARTIST, NOT
JUST A
CRAFTSMAN. I
EXPERIMENTED
BY TRIAL AND
ERROR AND
FINALLY I
FOUND THE
MOST AMAZING
CLAY...



I STILL
REMEMBER
WHEN HE
TOLD ME
"CERAMICS
IS THE
ART OF
THE
SPIRAL."

BECAUSE
YOUR
FATHER
UNDER-
STOOD
ART.



DRAGONFLY
POND?

DR-

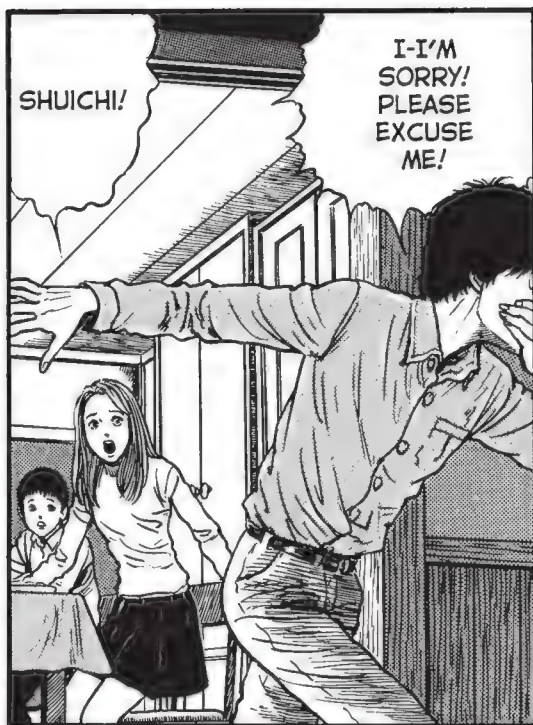


DRAGONFLY
POND.



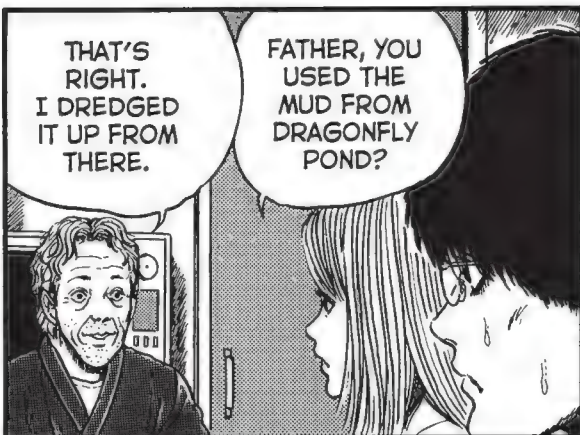
WHERE
DID
THIS
CLAY
COME
FROM?

S-SIR...



SHUICHI!

I-I'M
SORRY!
PLEASE
EXCUSE
ME!

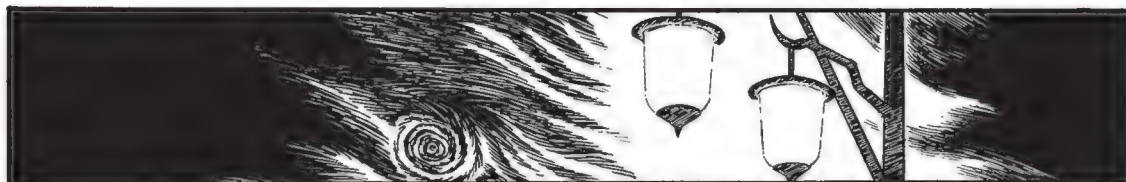


THAT'S
RIGHT.
I DREDGED
IT UP FROM
THERE.

FATHER, YOU
USED THE
MUD FROM
DRAGONFLY
POND?



URGH!



THAT
CLAY
MIGHT
BE
MADE
OF DEAD
PEOPLE!

I WOULDN'T
EAT OFF A PLATE
THAT WAS MADE
FROM MUD FROM
DRAGONFLY
POND!

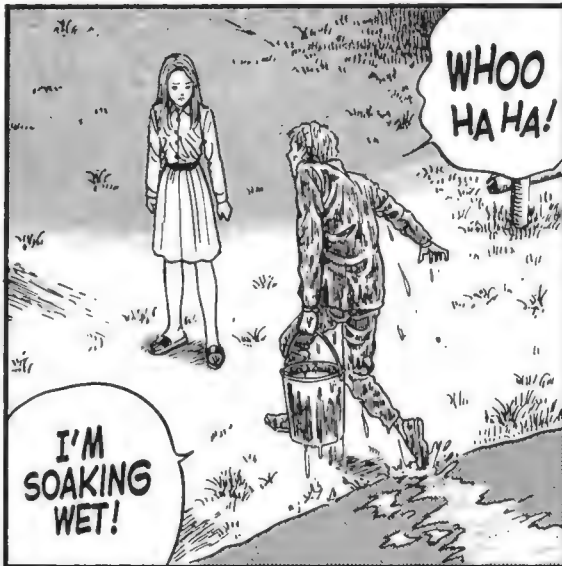
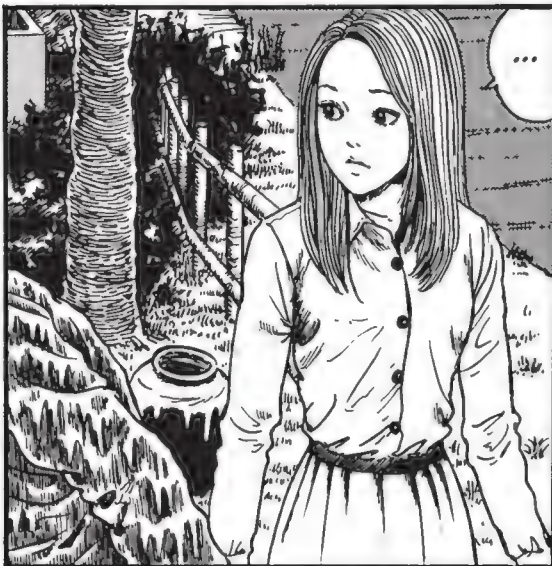
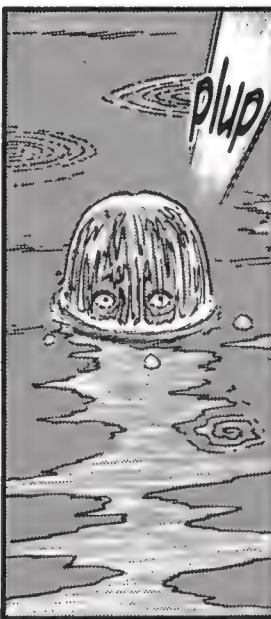
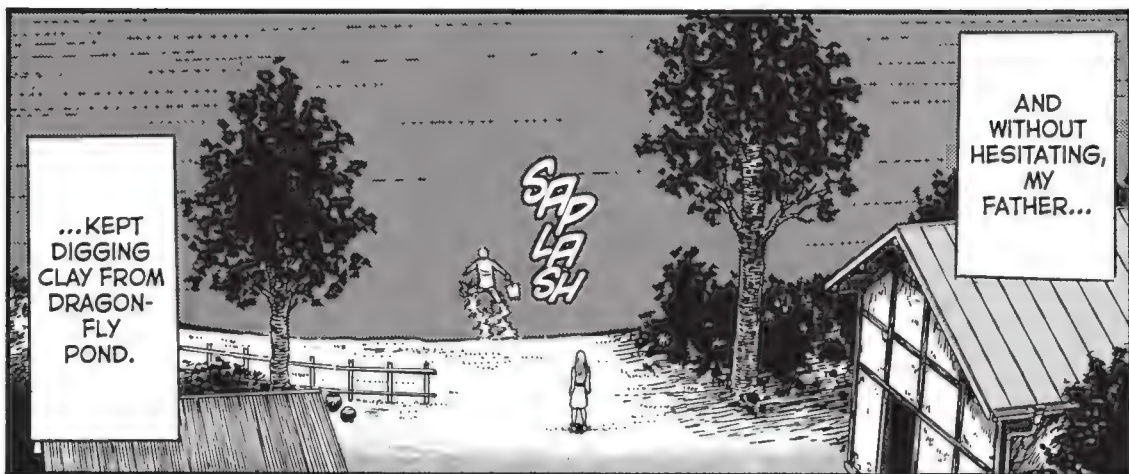
BUT
DEAR...

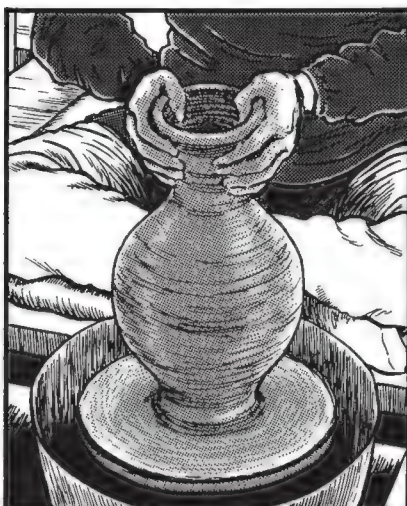


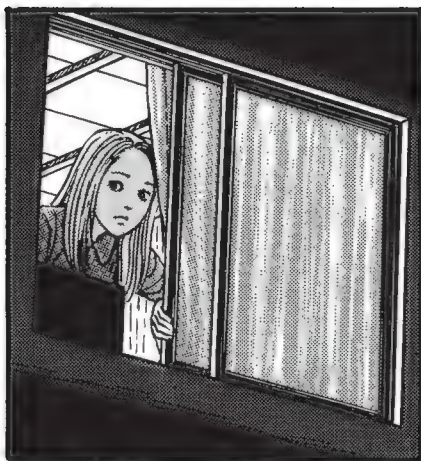
AFTER
ALL...

...IT'S
JUST
A
PLATE.

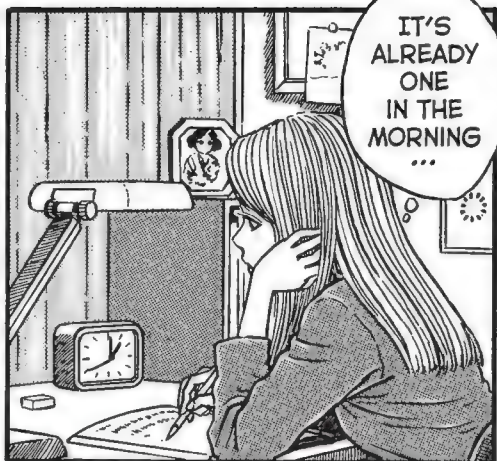
I FEEL BAD
ABOUT SHUICHI,
BUT DON'T YOU
THINK HE'S
OVERREACTING?



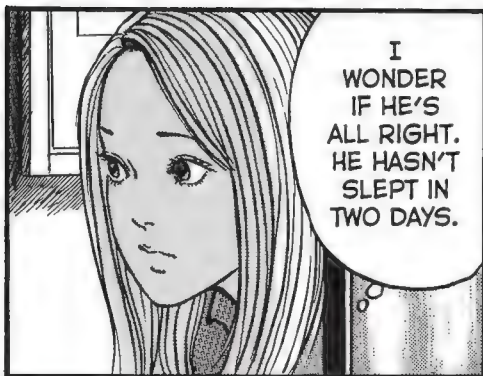




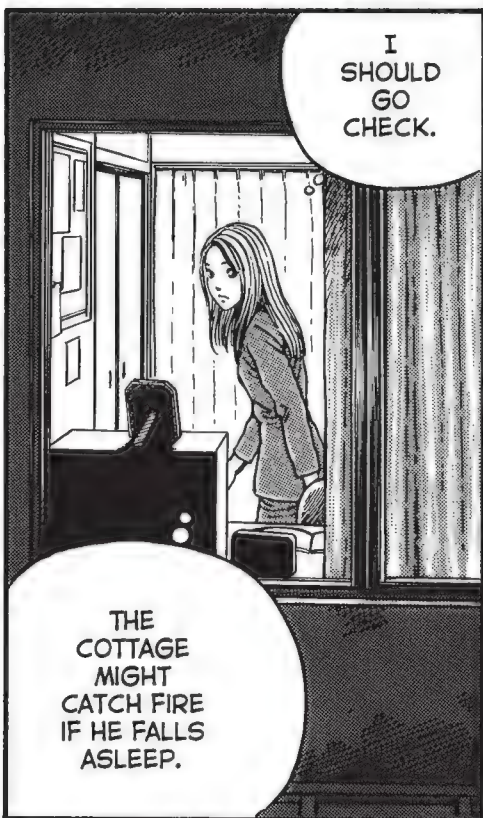
IS FATHER STILL UP THIS LATE?



IT'S ALREADY ONE IN THE MORNING ...



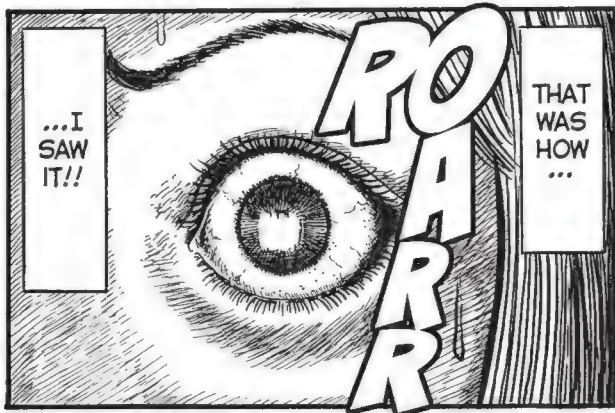
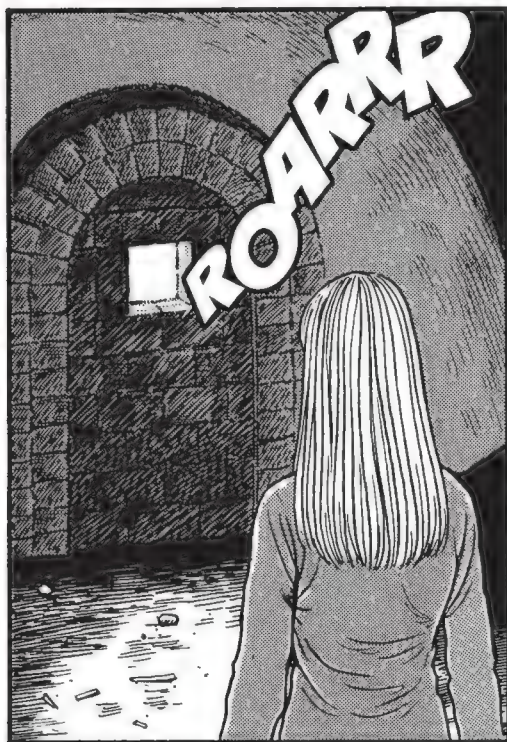
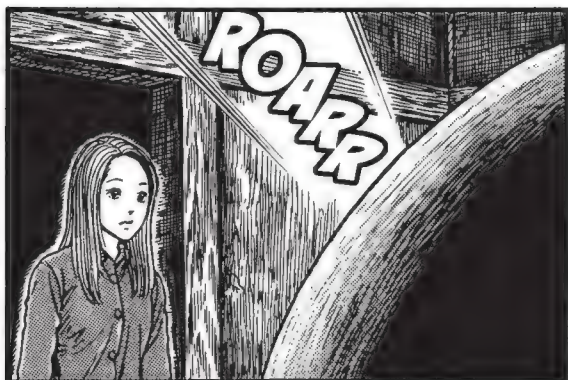
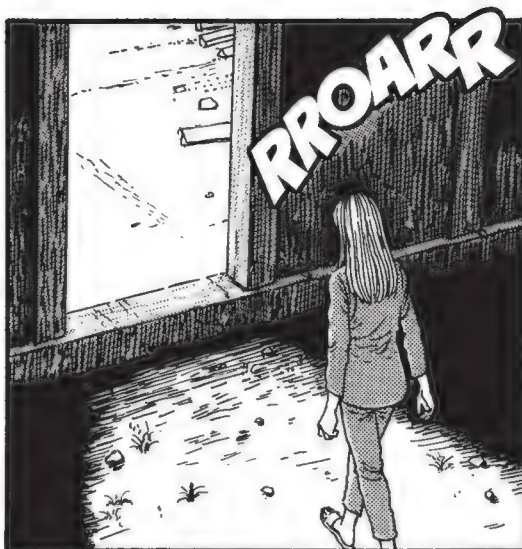
I WONDER IF HE'S ALL RIGHT. HE HASN'T SLEPT IN TWO DAYS.



I SHOULD GO CHECK.

THE COTTAGE MIGHT CATCH FIRE IF HE FALLS ASLEEP.









SH
UI
CHI...

SH
UI
CHI...



SHUICHI...
HELP ME...
SHUICHI...

THE
HEAT!

AGG
HGG
EE
EE
EE

AGG
HGG



THAT
CAN'T
BE...

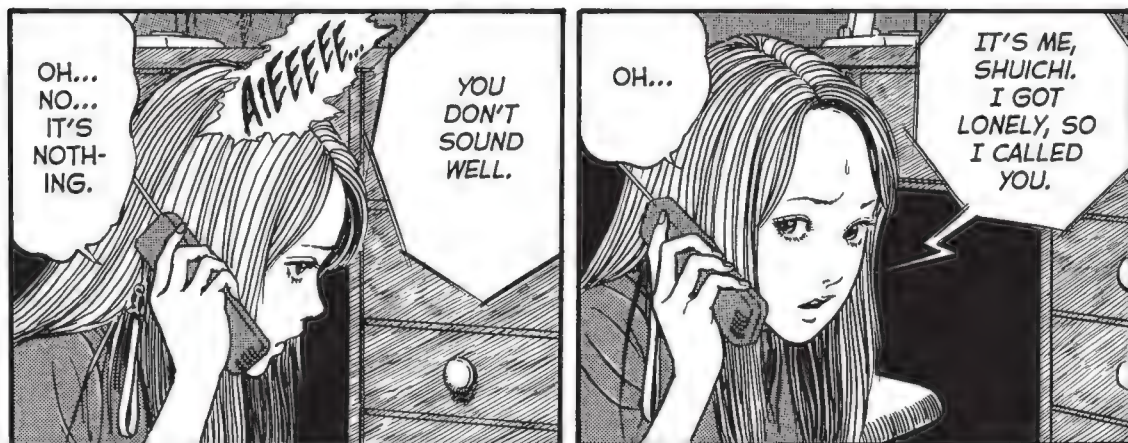
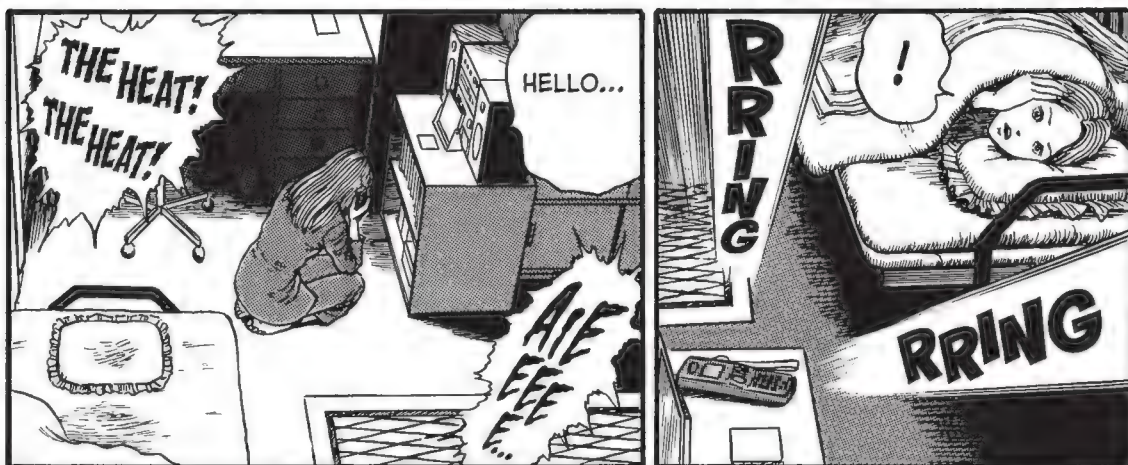
TH-

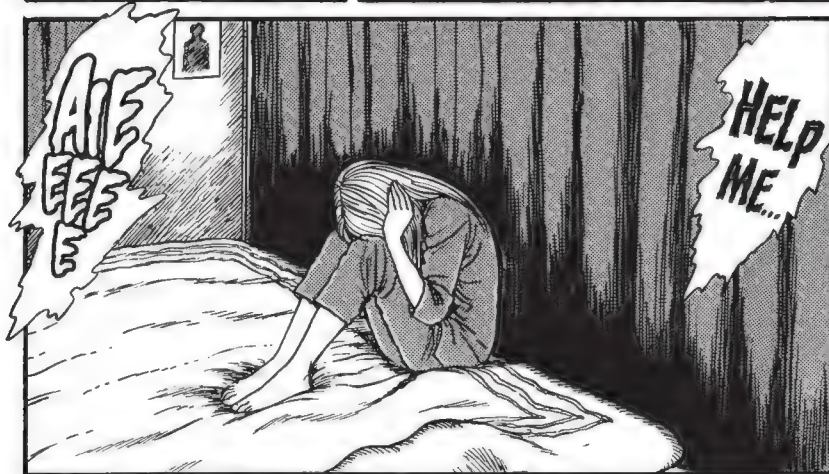
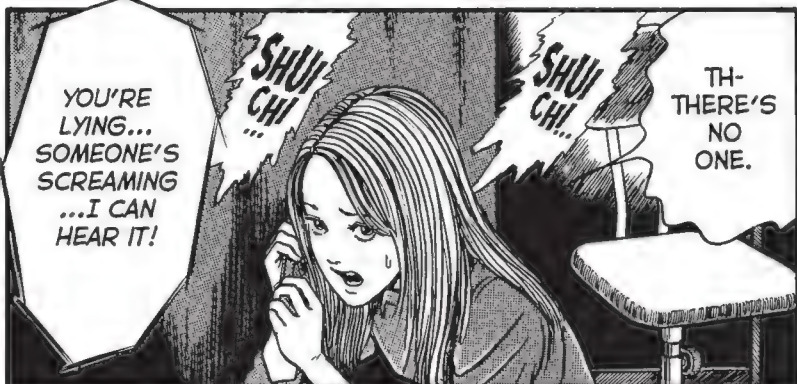
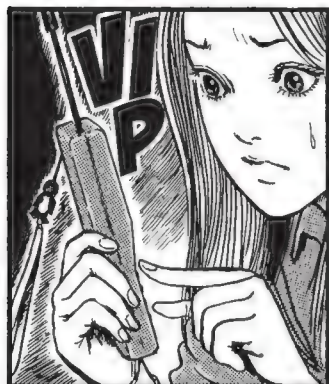


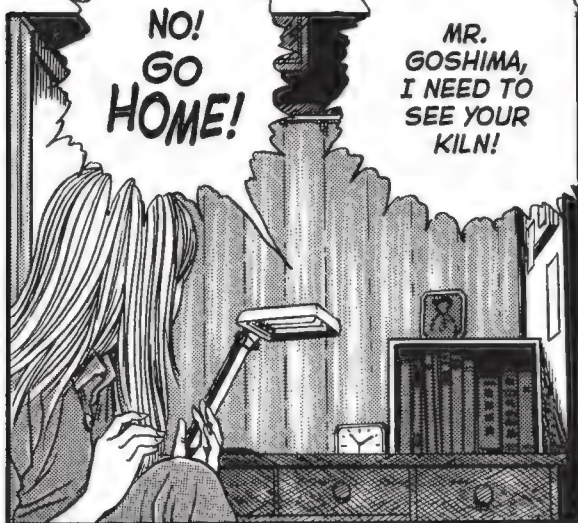
KIRIE!
WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING?!



I TOLD
YOU NOT
TO GO NEAR
THE KILN!
GET BACK
IN AND GO
TO BED!







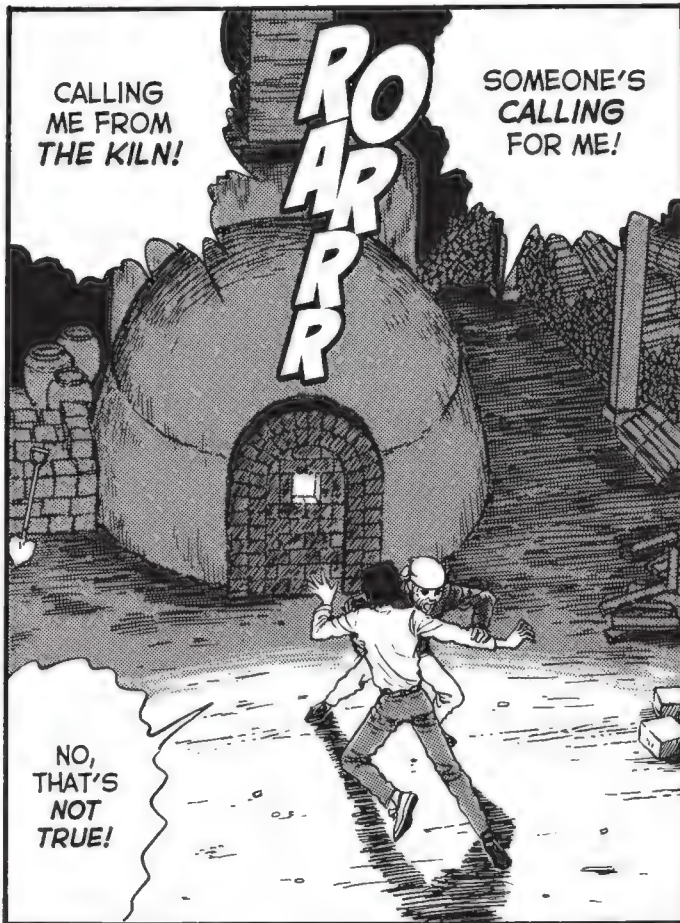
MR. GOSHIMA,
I NEED TO
SEE YOUR
KILN!



SHUICHI,
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?!!
IT'S LATE!

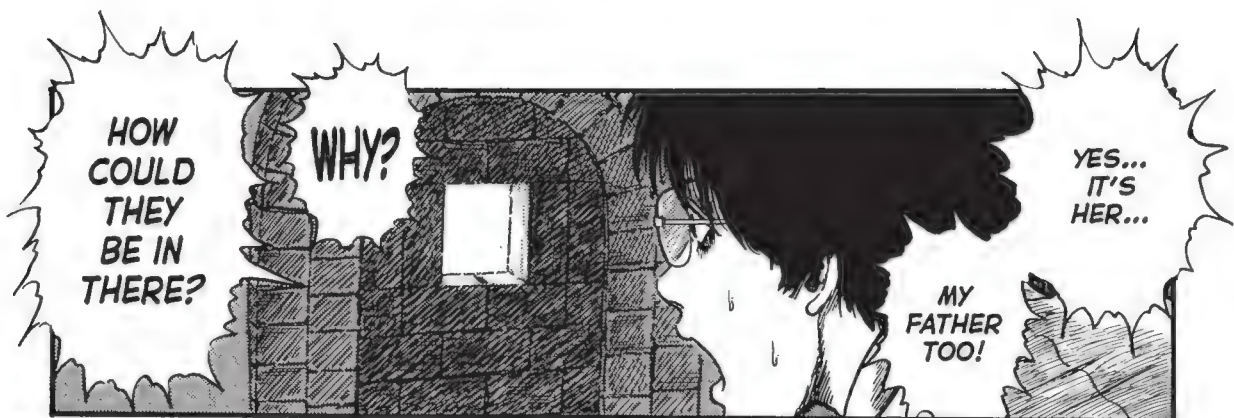


I SAID,
GO HOME!

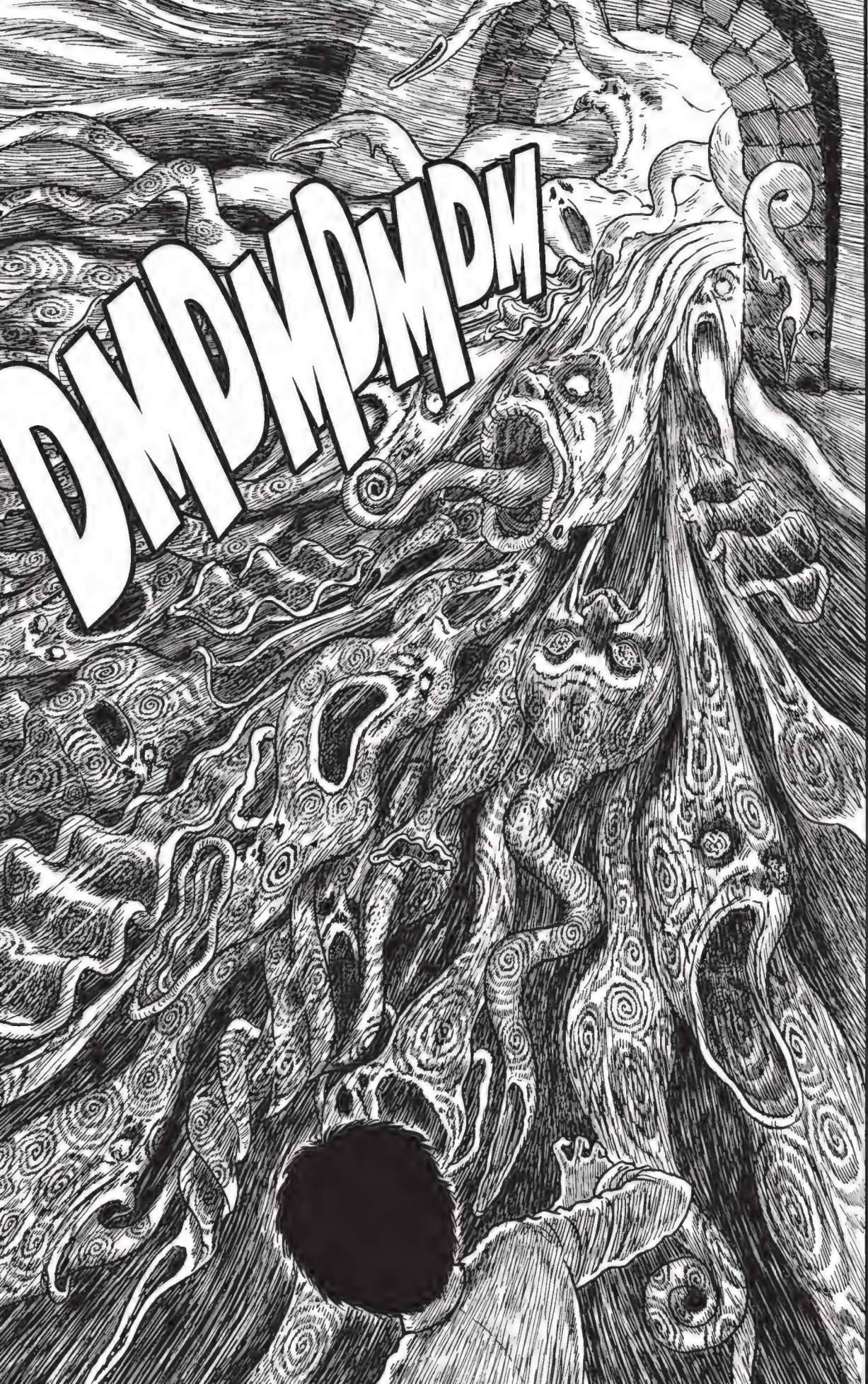


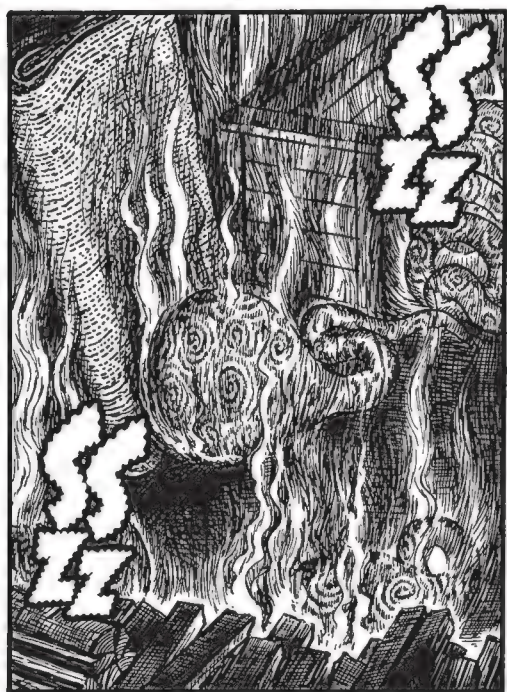
NO,
THAT'S
NOT
TRUE!

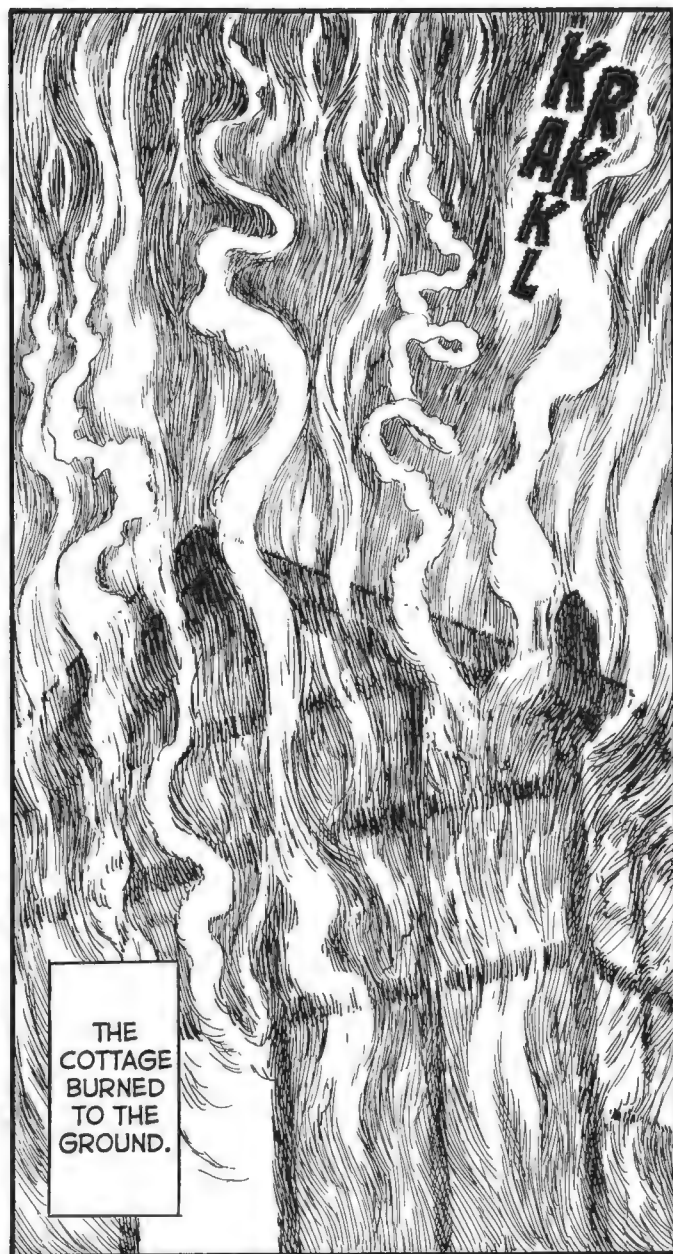














EVEN BY
DAYLIGHT,
FATHER'S
OBSESSION
CONTINUED.



I
SUPPOSE
WE'RE
LUCKY
WE ONLY
LOST THE
KILN.



WHAT
A NICE
SURPRISE
...THIS
TURNED
OUT
WELL.

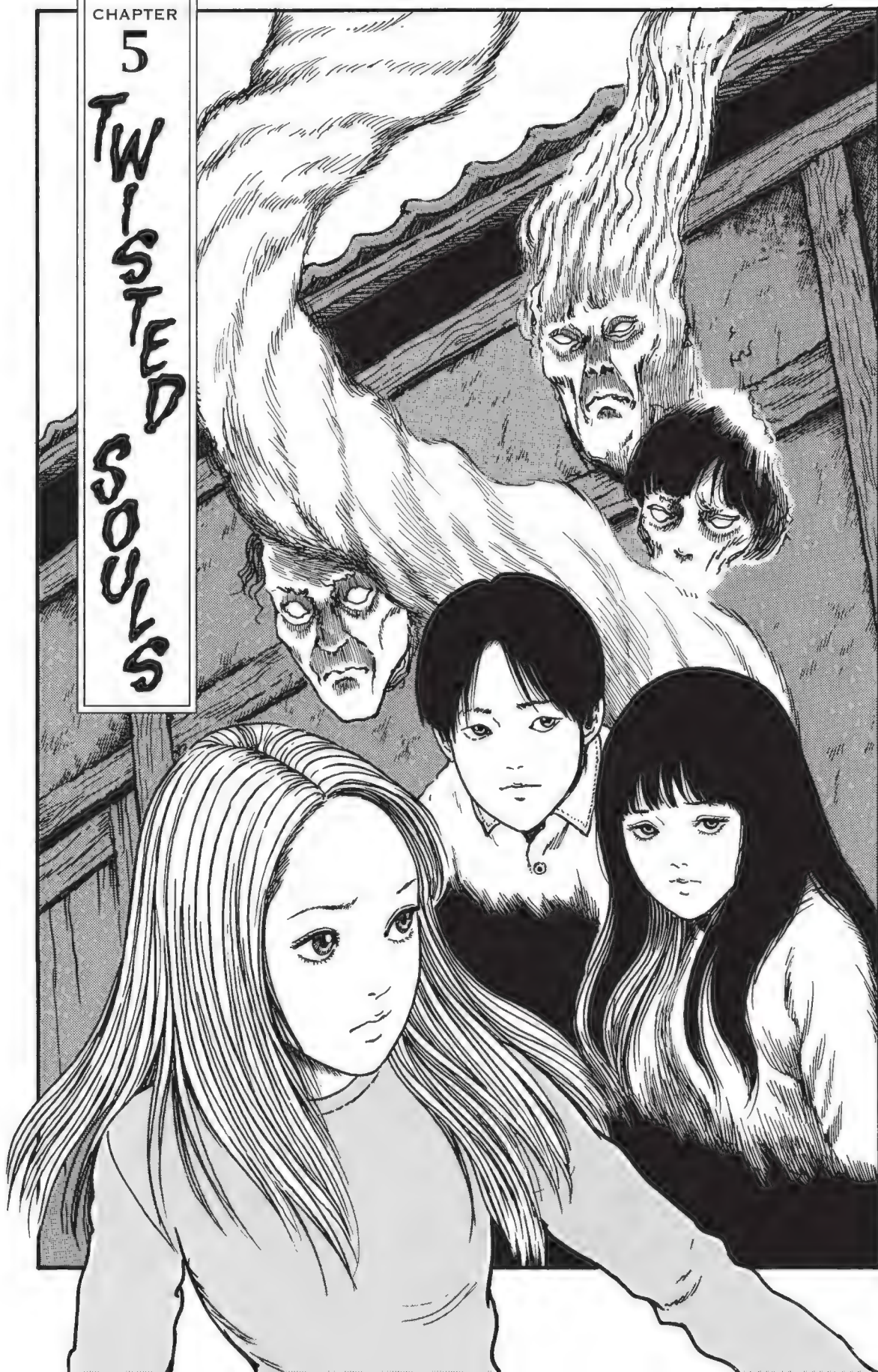
AHH...
YES,
HERE
WE
GO!

THERE
MUST BE
OTHERS
BURIED
AROUND
HERE...

CHAPTER

5

TWISTED
SOULS

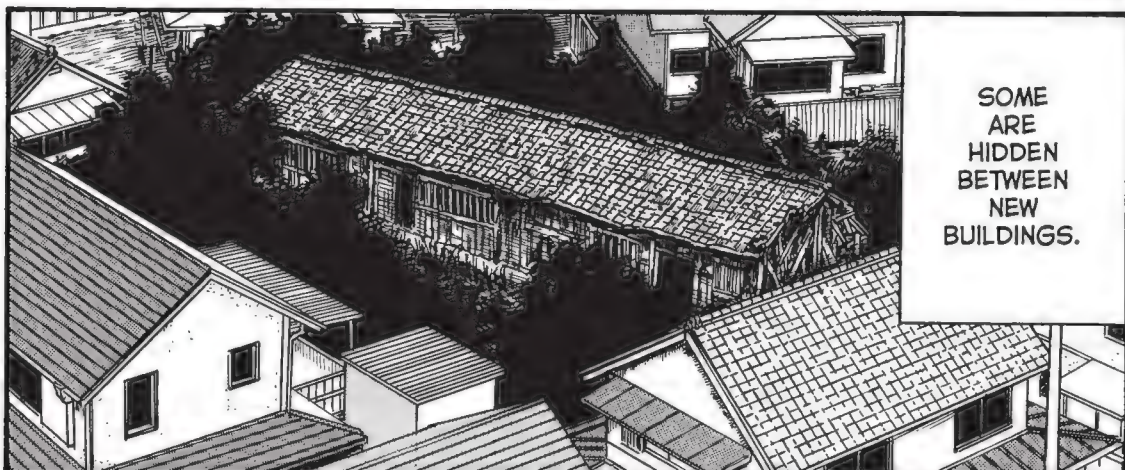




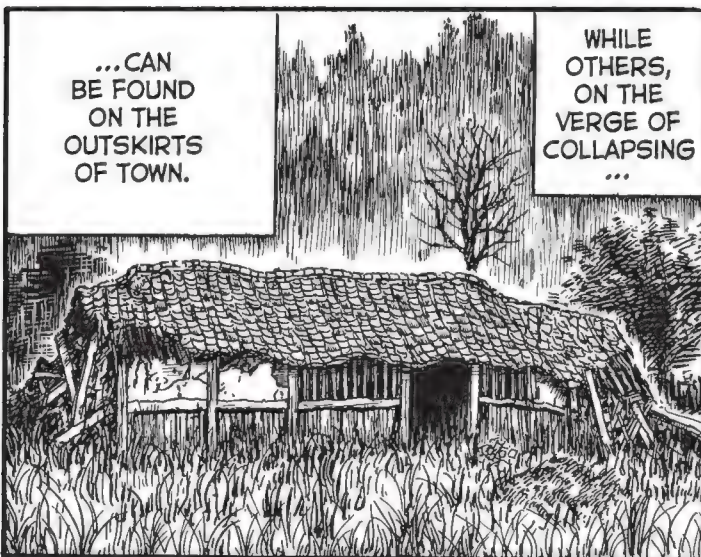
...THERE
HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN ROW
HOUSES IN
RUINS.



IN
KUROUZU
CHO...

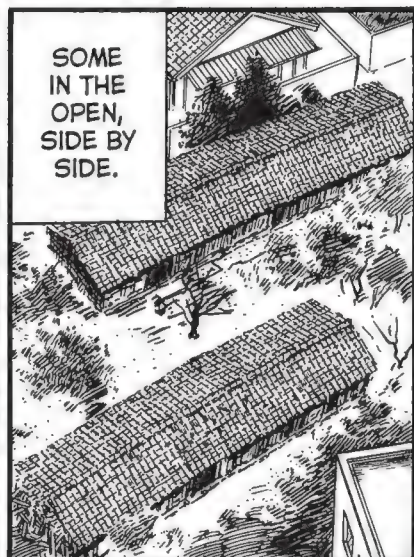


SOME
ARE
HIDDEN
BETWEEN
NEW
BUILDINGS.



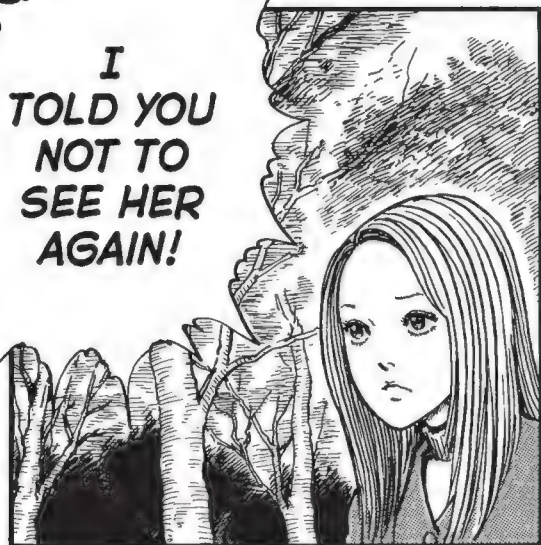
...CAN
BE FOUND
ON THE
OUTSKIRTS
OF TOWN.

WHILE
OTHERS,
ON THE
VERGE OF
COLLAPSING
...



SOME
IN THE
OPEN,
SIDE BY
SIDE.

I
TOLD YOU
NOT TO
SEE HER
AGAIN!

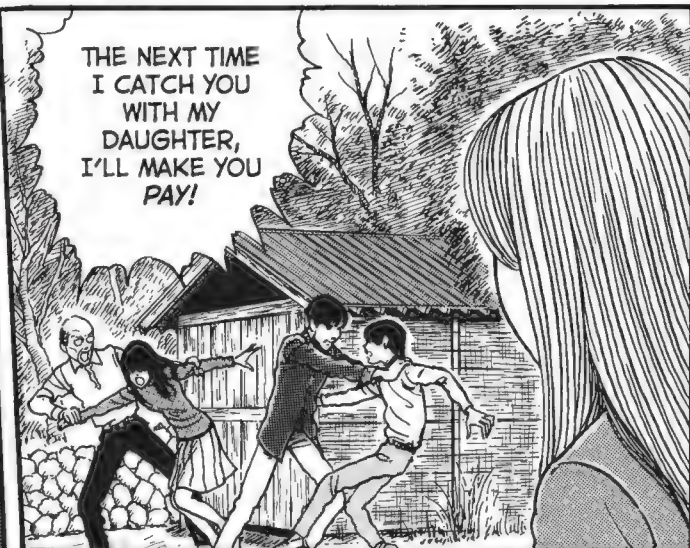


NO!

PLEASE,
SIR, JUST
LET ME
TALK TO
HER!



THE NEXT TIME
I CATCH YOU
WITH MY
DAUGHTER,
I'LL MAKE YOU
PAY!

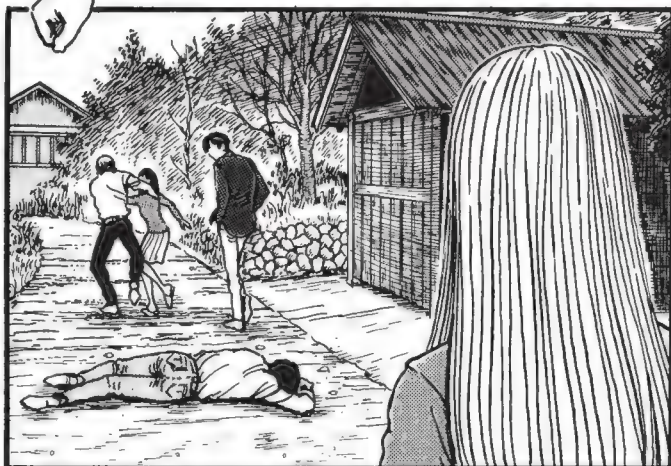
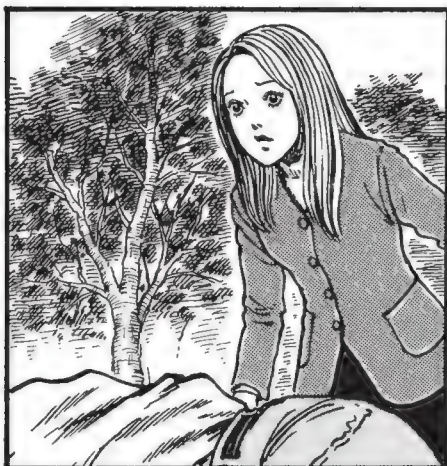


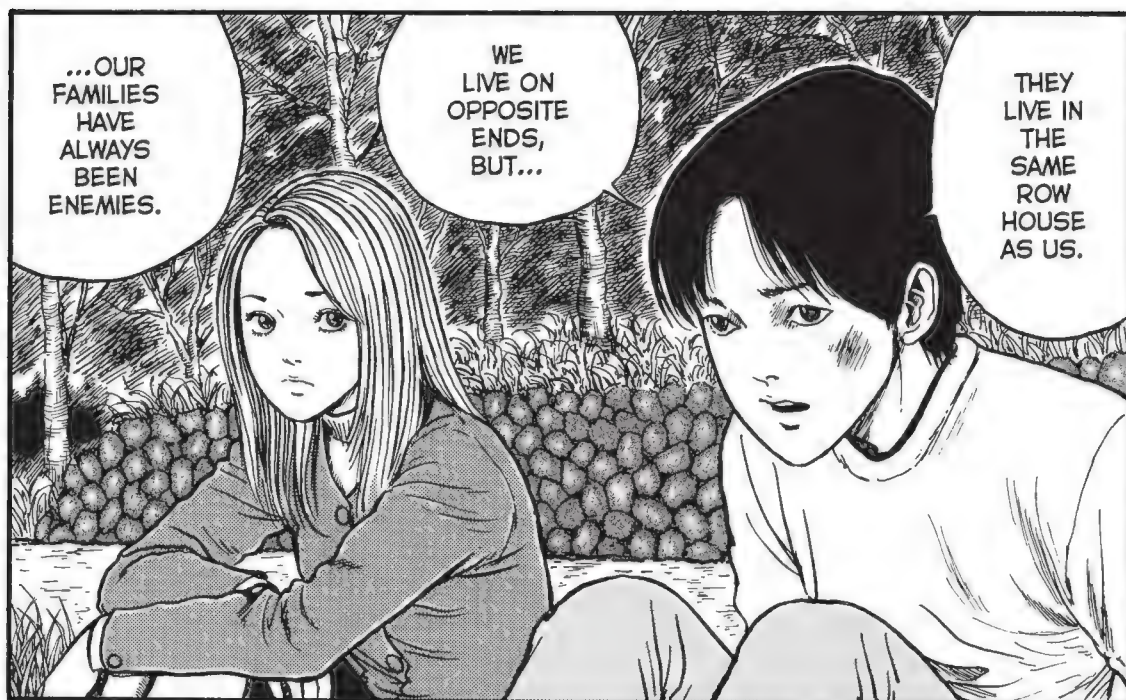
LET ME
GO,
DAD!

COME ON,
YORIKO!

I CAN'T LET
MY PRECIOUS
DAUGHTER NEAR
YOUR **WRETCHED**
FAMILY!







...OUR
FAMILIES
HAVE
ALWAYS
BEEN
ENEMIES.

WE
LIVE ON
OPPOSITE
ENDS,
BUT...

THEY
LIVE IN
THE
SAME
ROW
HOUSE
AS US.



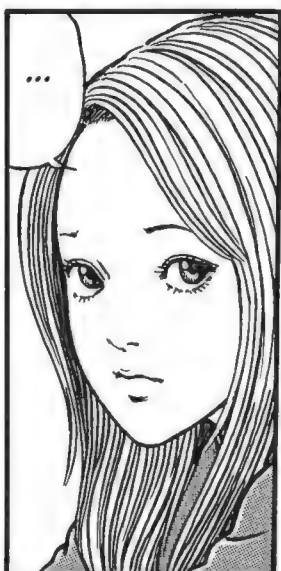
BUT
OUR
FAMILIES
WON'T
LET US
SEE
EACH
OTHER.

WELL...
YOU
KNOW...
YOU
HAVE
SHUICHI...

BUT
YORIKO
AND I
HAVE
FALLEN IN
LOVE.



KAZUNORI
NISHIKI
HAS
BEEN MY
CLASS-
MATE
EVER
SINCE
ELEMEN-
TARY
SCHOOL.



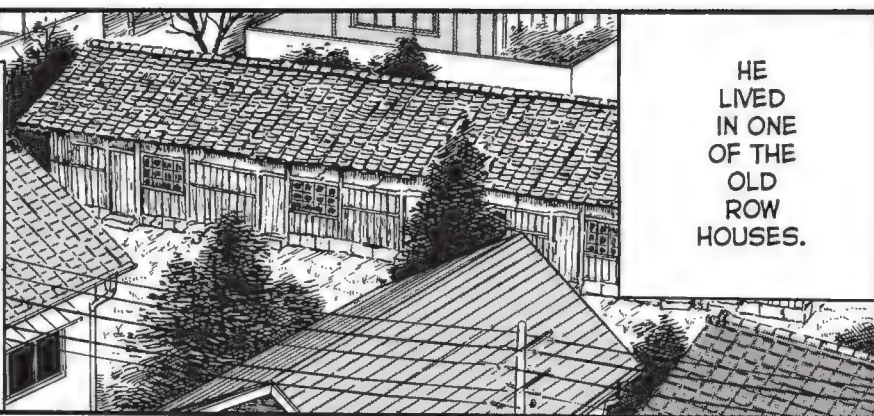
...



...BUT
NOTH-
ING
WORKS.

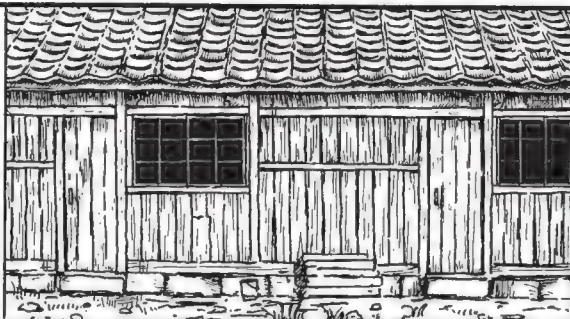
WE'VE
TRIED
EVERYTHING
TO MAKE
THEM
ACCEPT
US...

IT WAS
FAIRLY
WELL
PRESERVED,
SO THE
OWNER
REFURBISHED
IT AND
RENTED THE
ROOMS.

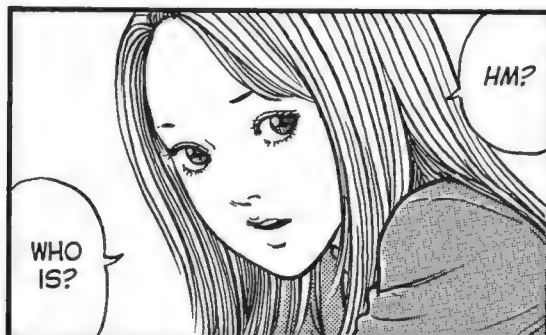


HE
LIVED
IN ONE
OF THE
OLD
ROW
HOUSES.

IT'S
CONSIDERED
A POOR
TENEMENT
HOUSE.
EVERYONE
LOOKS DOWN
ON THE
PEOPLE WHO
LIVE THERE.



WHEN THEY
MOVED TO
KUROZU-CHO,
KAZUNORI'S
FAMILY MOVED
INTO THIS
BUILDING, WHERE
SEVERAL OTHER
POOR FAMILIES
LIVED.



WHO
IS?

HM?

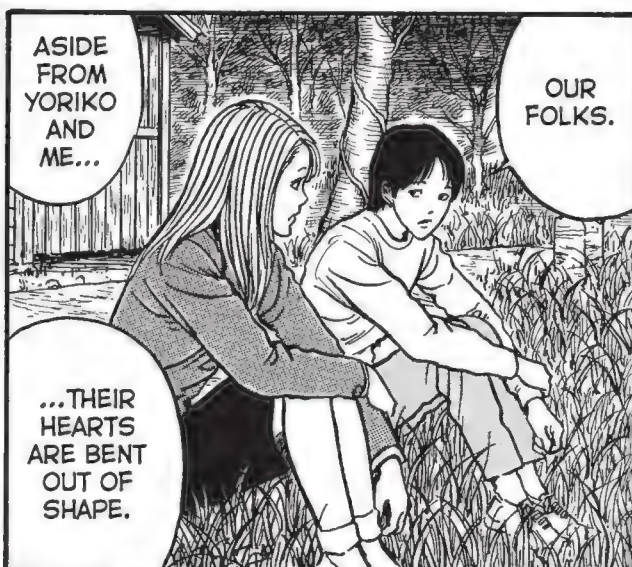


THEY'RE
TWISTED.



...THAT
THEY
SHIELD
THEM-
SELVES
BY
BECOMING
WARPED.

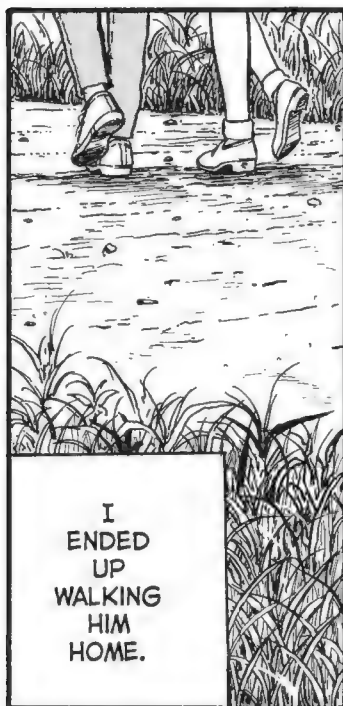
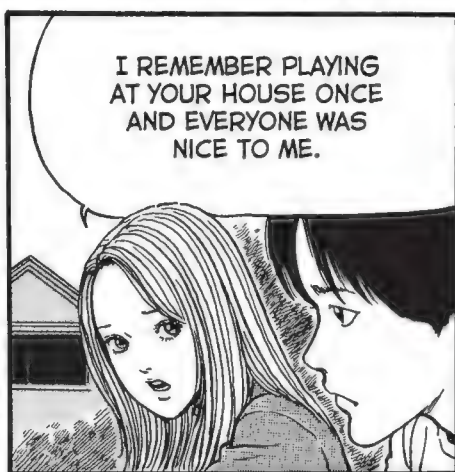
IT'S
PROBABLY
BECAUSE
THEY
CAN'T
ACCEPT
THEIR
POVERTY...

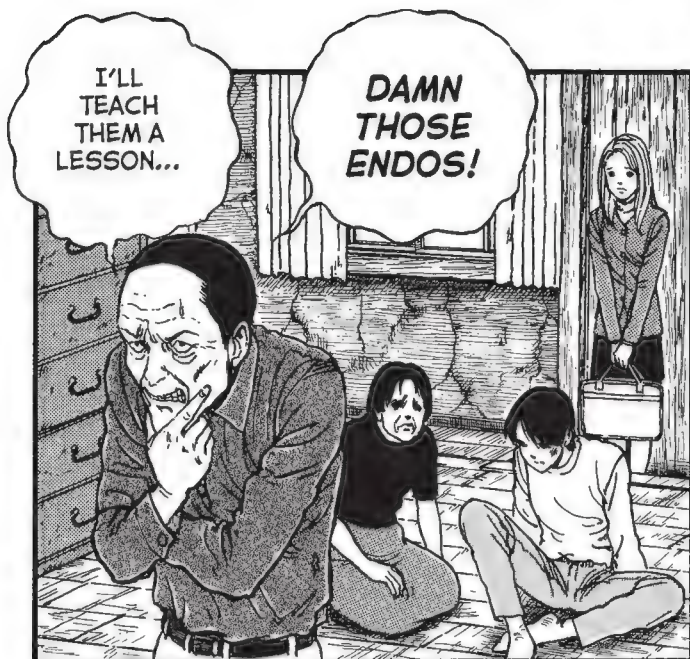


ASIDE
FROM
YORIKO
AND
ME...

OUR
FOLKS.

...THEIR
HEARTS
ARE BENT
OUT OF
SHAPE.





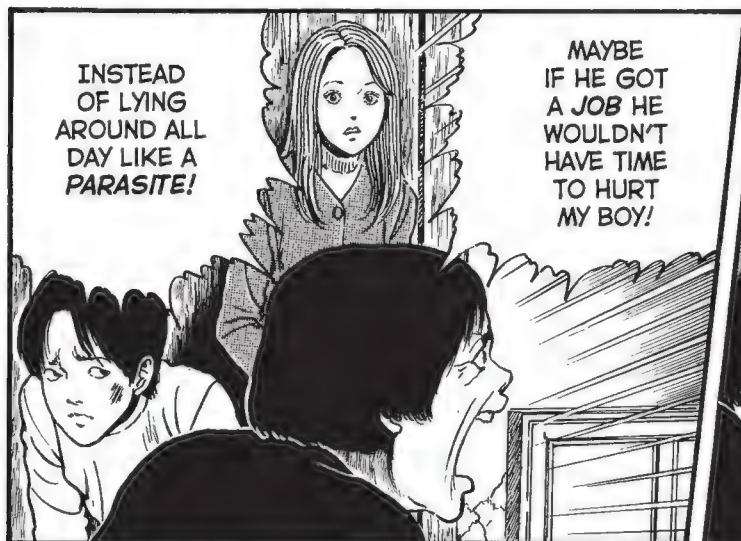
I'LL
TEACH
THEM A
LESSON...

DAMN
THOSE
ENDOS!



KAZUNORI!!
I TOLD YOU
NOT TO SEE
THAT GIRL!

AND THEN
YOU LET
THEM BEAT
YOU UP?!
HOW
PATHETIC!



INSTEAD
OF LYING
AROUND ALL
DAY LIKE A
PARASITE!

MAYBE
IF HE GOT
A JOB HE
WOULDN'T
HAVE TIME
TO HURT
MY BOY!



SO
THEIR
SON DID
THIS TO
YOU?!

THEY HURT
MY POOR
KAZUNORI...

OW,
MOM...



THE
WALLS...

THEY LIVE
AT OPPOSITE
ENDS, BUT
THEIR VOICES
GO RIGHT
THROUGH...



SHUT
UP,
BITCH!
OR I'LL
KILL
YOU!

WH-
WHAT?!
WHY,
YOU
THUG!

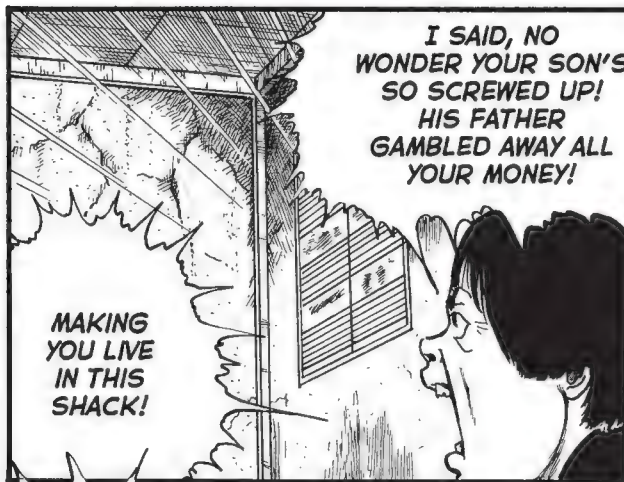


THE
THUG'S
MOTHER.

THERE
SHE
GOES!



WHAT WAS
THAT YOU
SAID ABOUT
MY SON?!



MAKING
YOU LIVE
IN THIS
SHACK!

I SAID, NO
WONDER YOUR SON'S
SO SCREWED UP!
HIS FATHER
GAMBLLED AWAY ALL
YOUR MONEY!

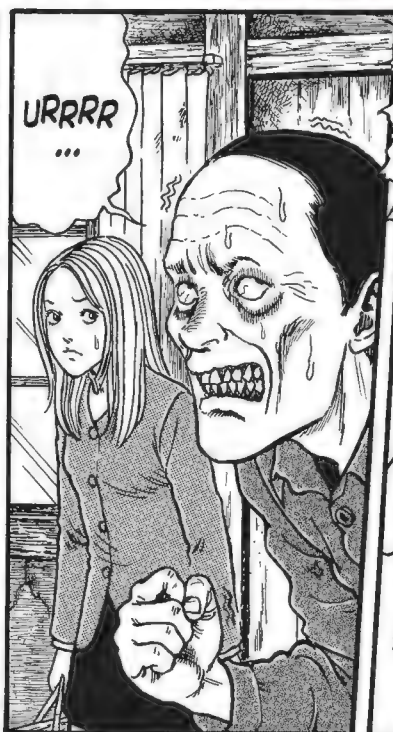


SHUT
YOUR
MOUTH!

STOP
IT,
MOM.



STOP
IT!



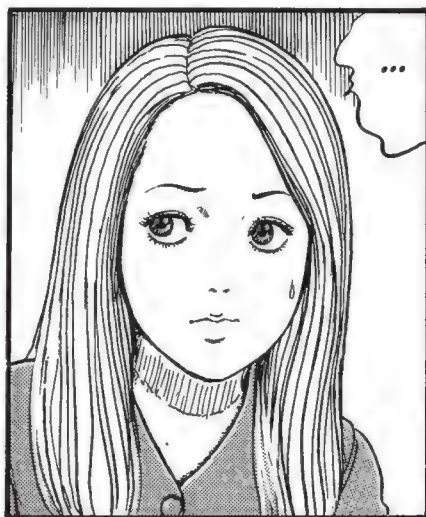
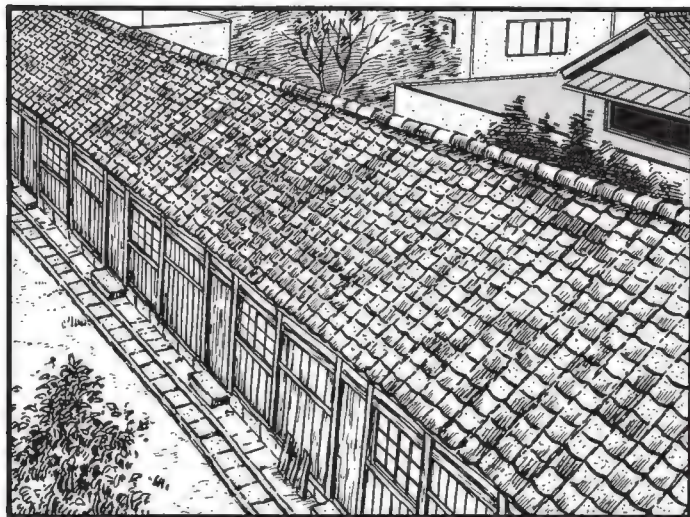
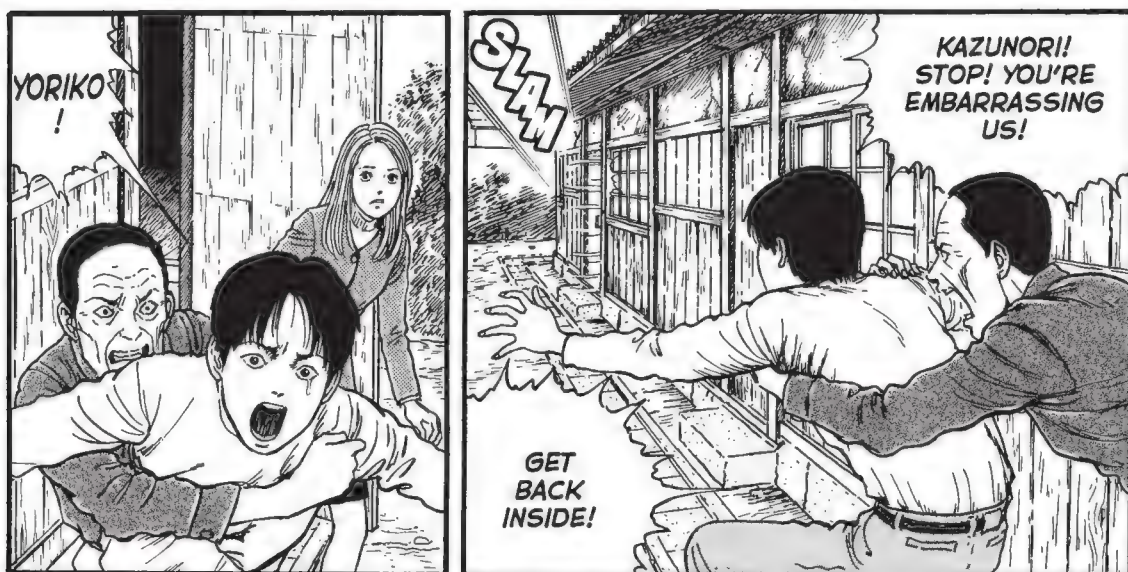
URRRR
...

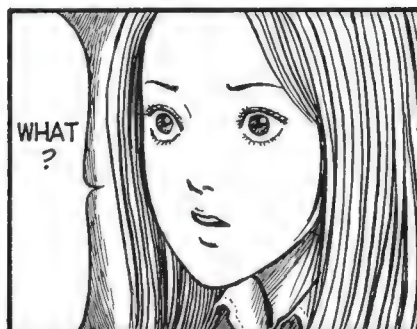
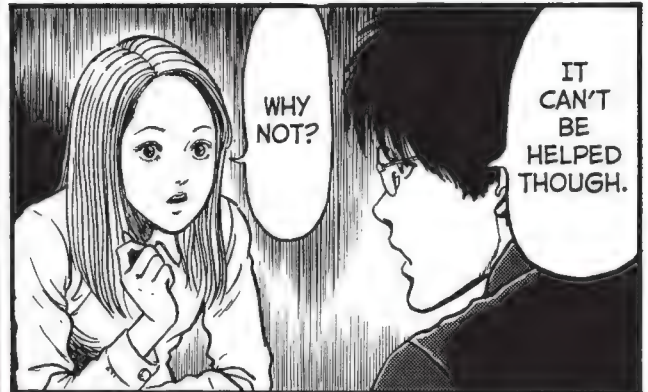
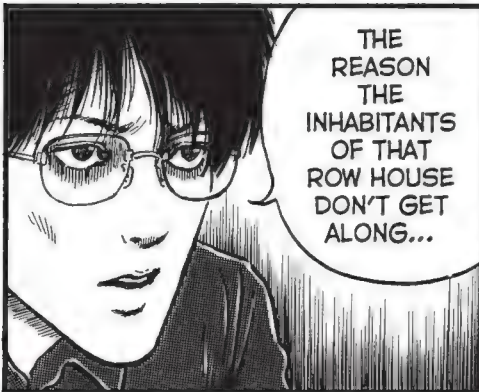


YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!
YOU WOULDN'T BE
HERE IF YOUR STUPID
HUSBAND COULD RUN
A BUSINESS!
I KNOW EVERYTHING
ABOUT YOU!

SHUT
UP!









I
WON'T
ASK FOR
YOUR
HELP
ANY-
MORE.

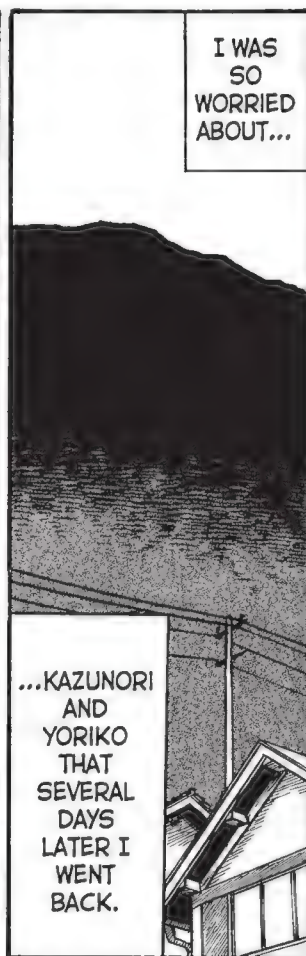
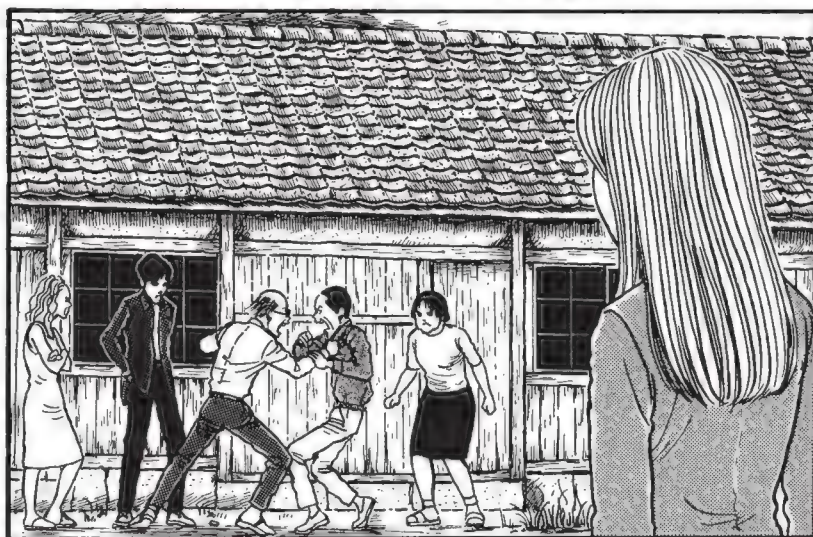
**FORGET
IT!**



WHAT?
NO!

WE
COULD
GO
TONIGHT...
RUN
AWAY...

SO HOW
ABOUT IT, KIRIE?
WHY DON'T
YOU AND I
JUST LEAVE
TOWN?



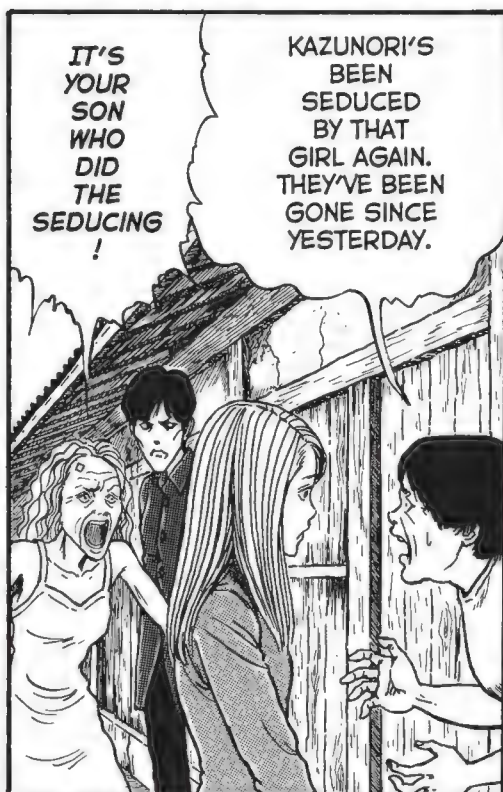
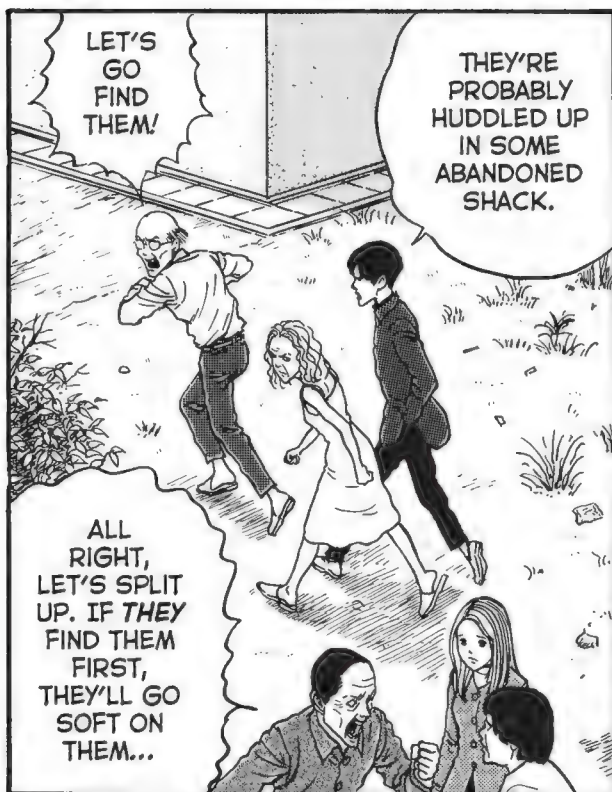
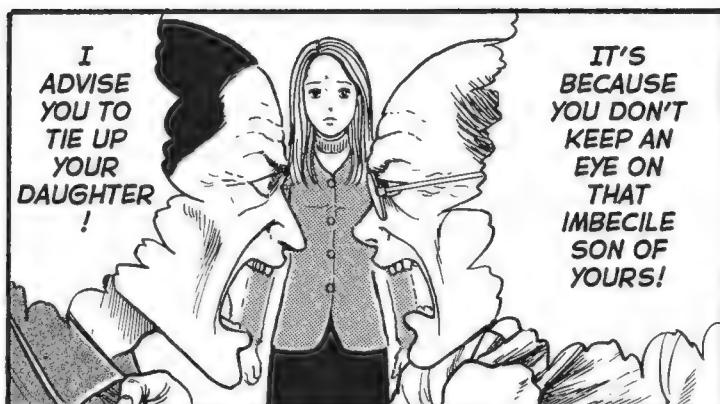
I WAS
SO
WORRIED
ABOUT...

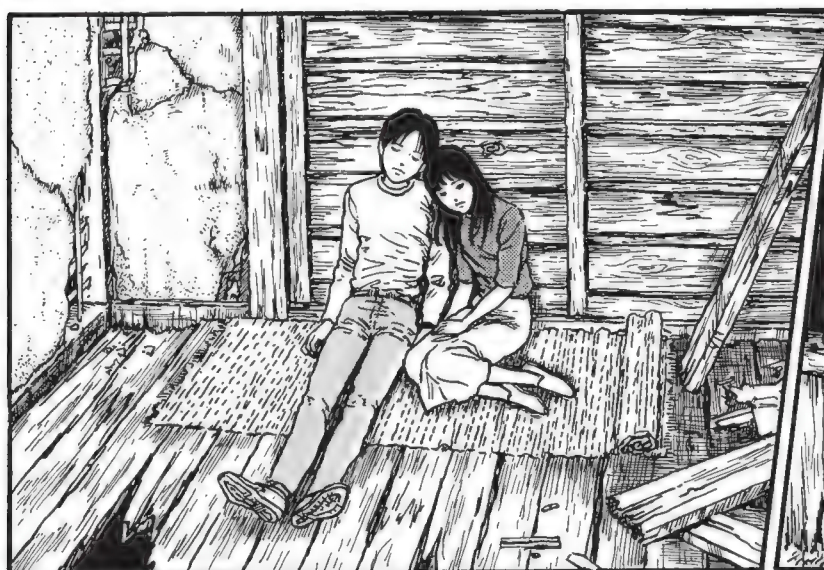
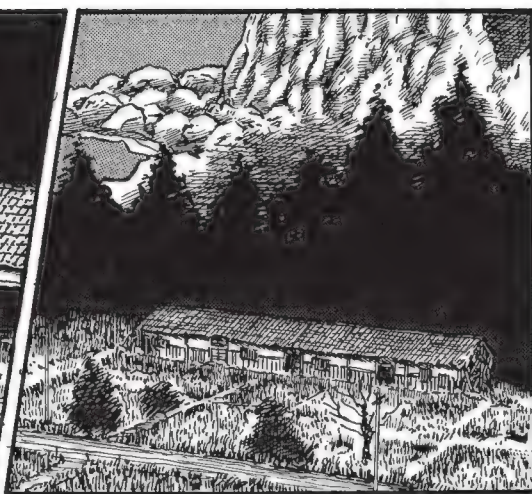


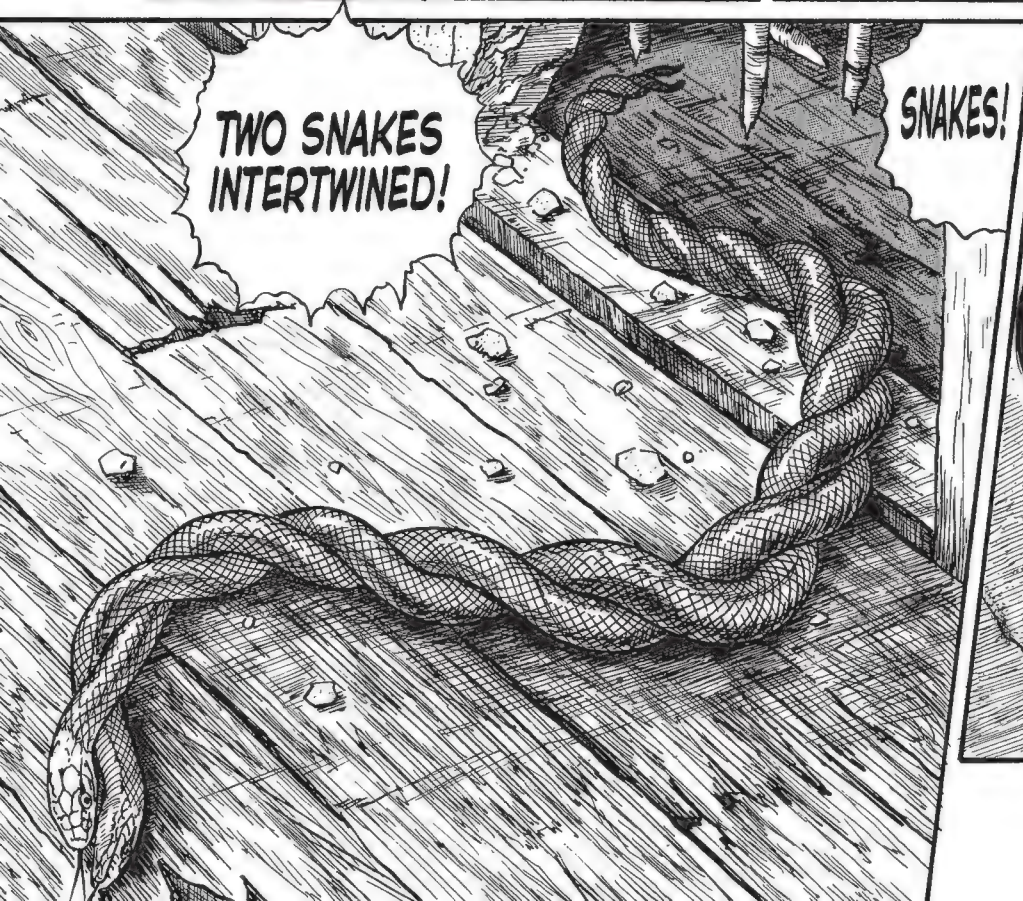
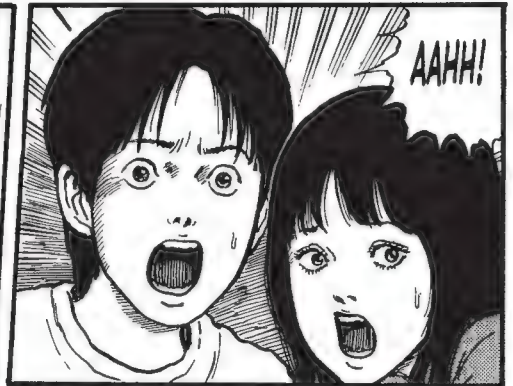
THEY'RE
AT IT
AGAIN!



...KAZUNORI
AND
YORIKO
THAT
SEVERAL
DAYS
LATER I
WENT
BACK.



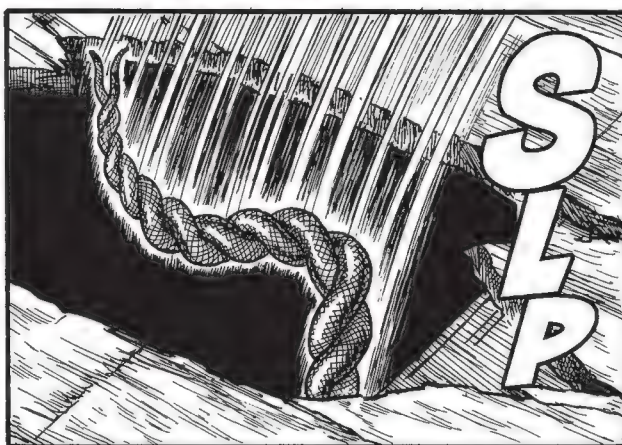
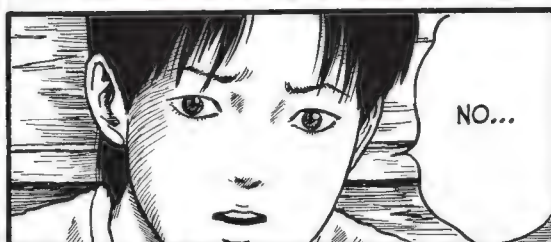
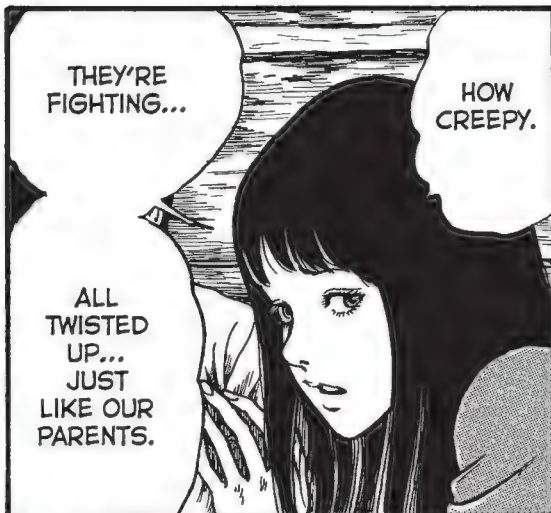


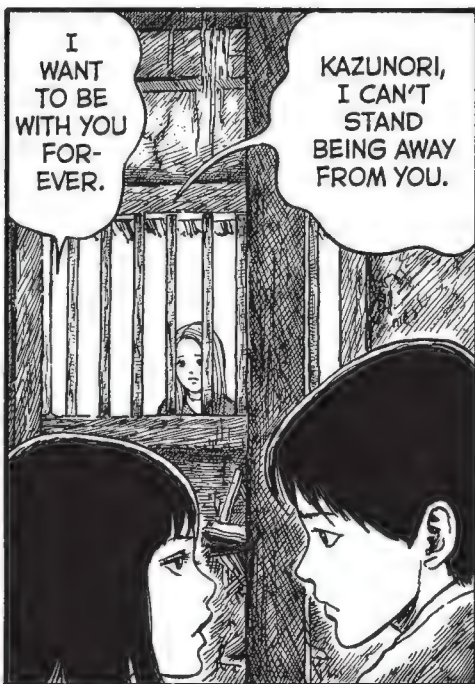
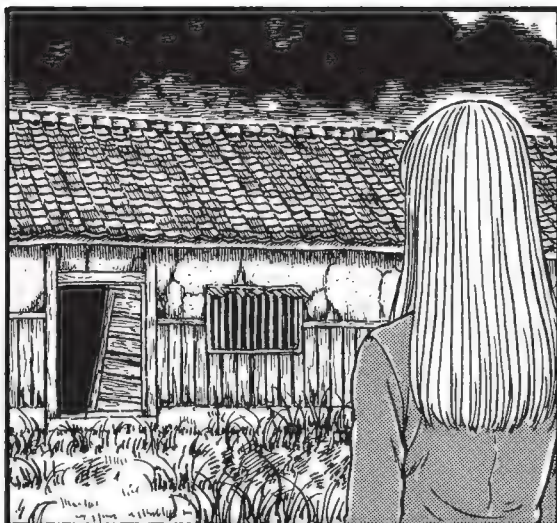


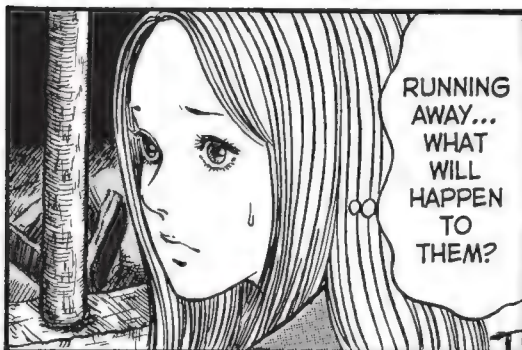
SNAKES!

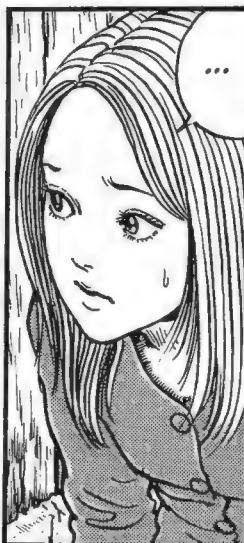
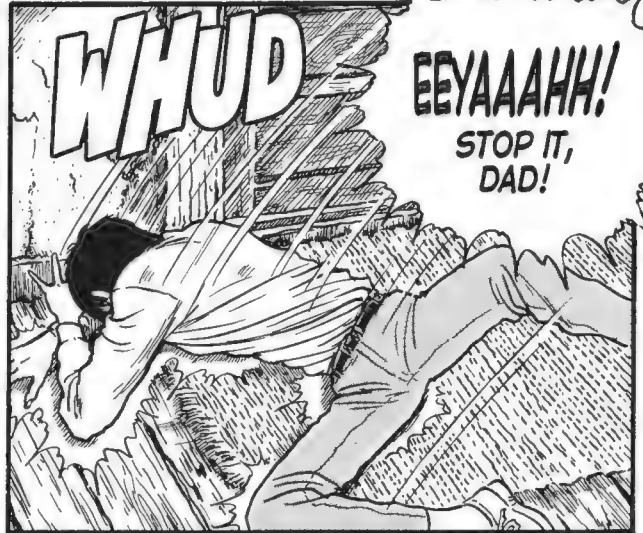
WH-WHAT
IS
THAT?!

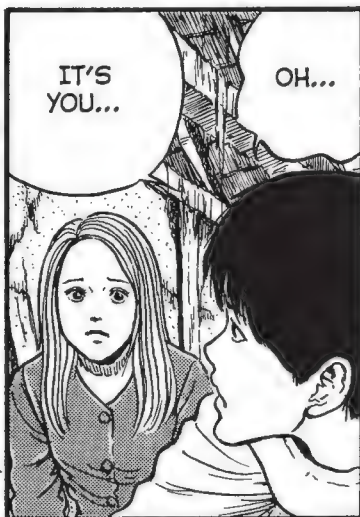


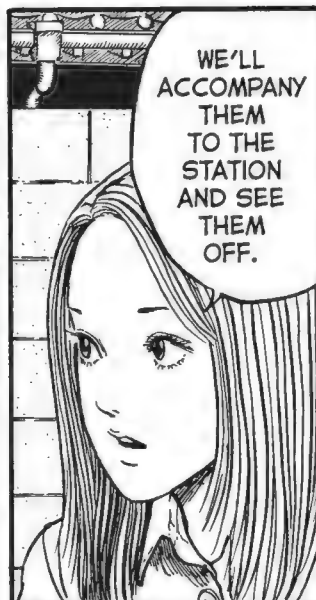
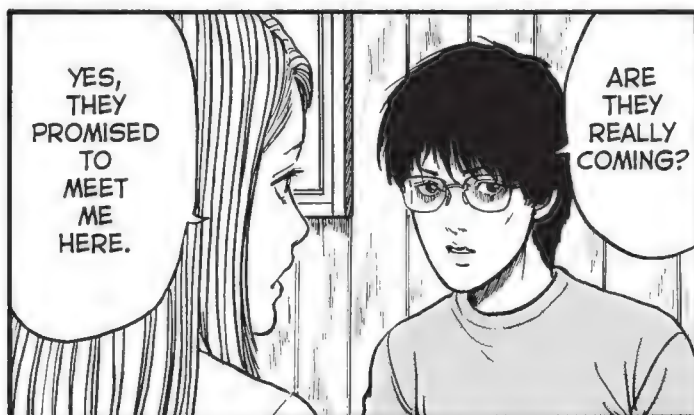


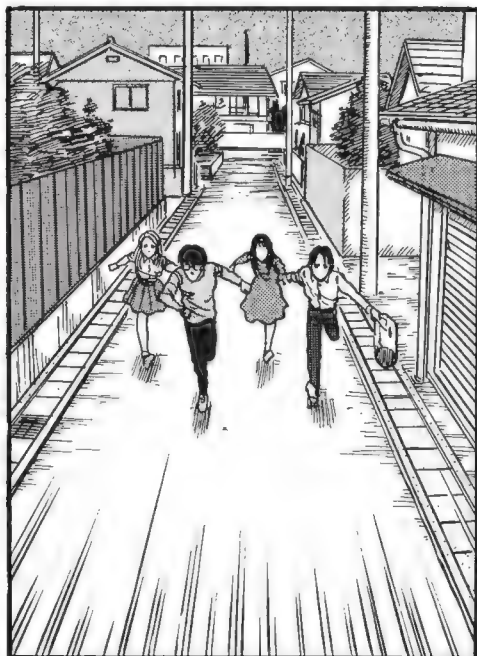
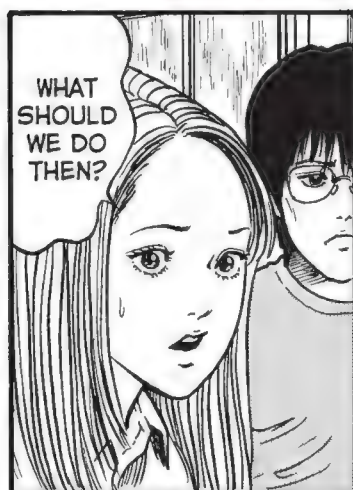


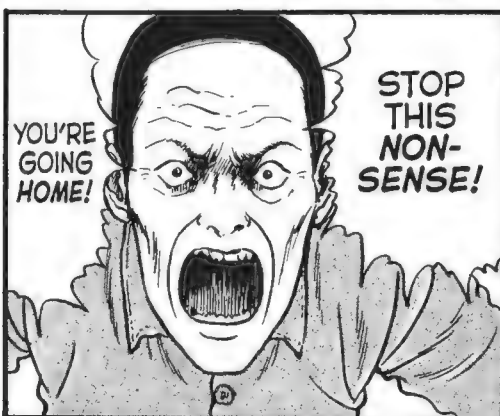
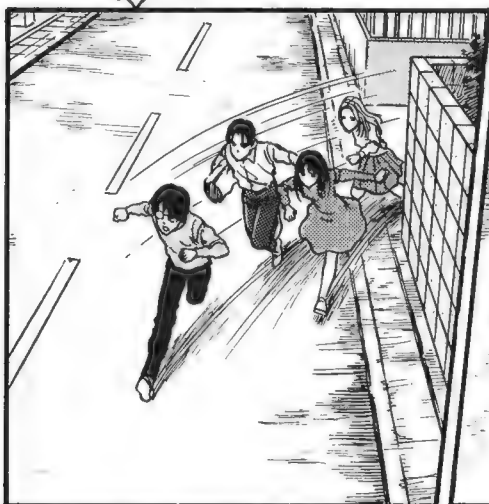


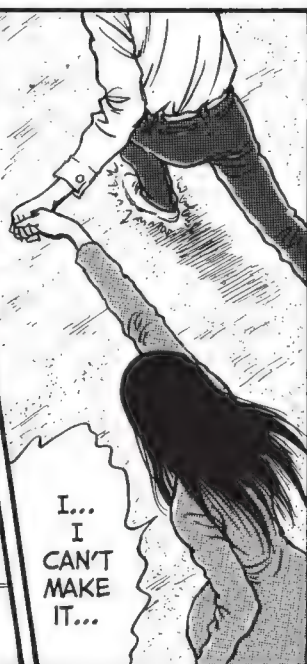
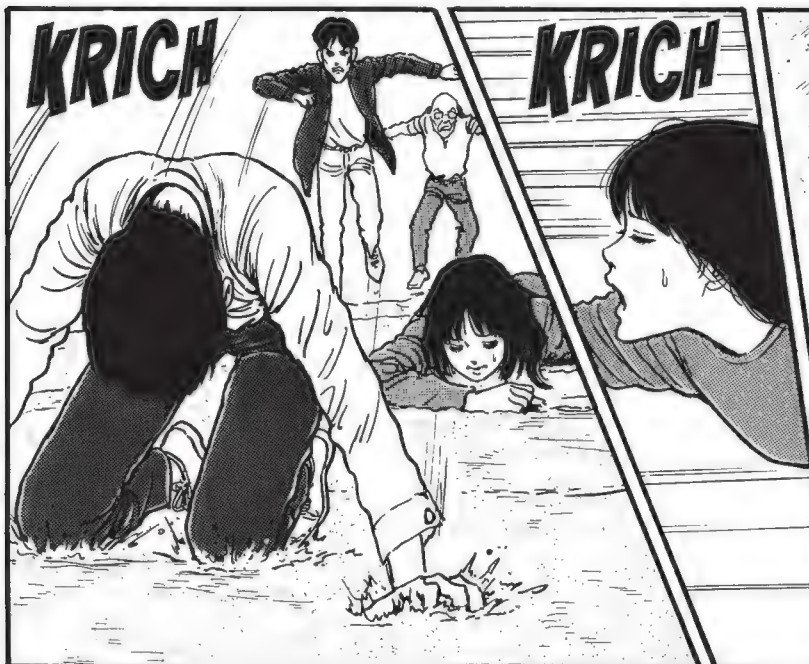


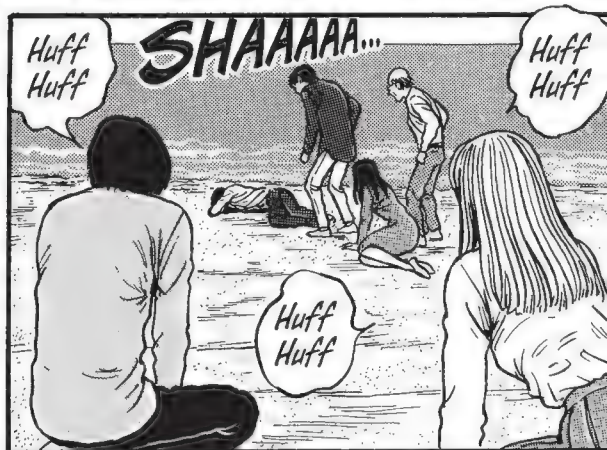


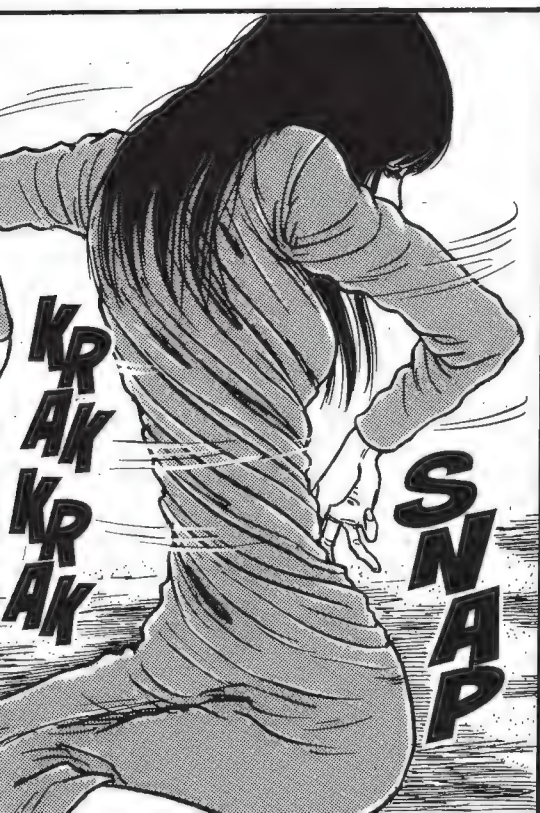
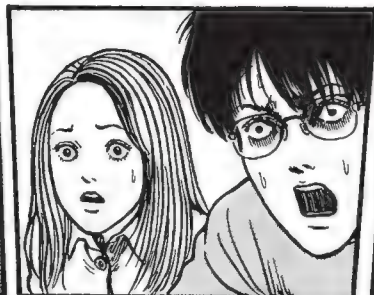














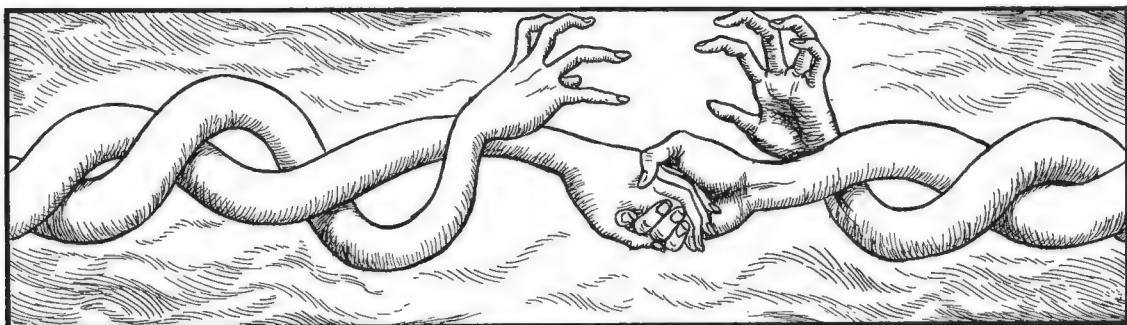
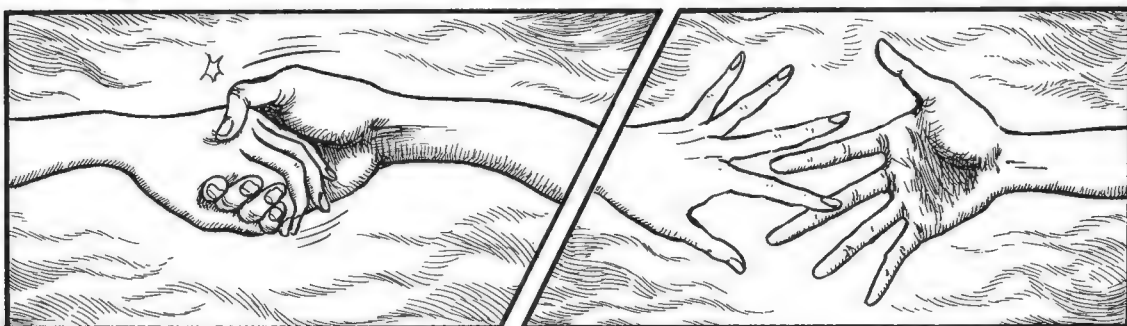
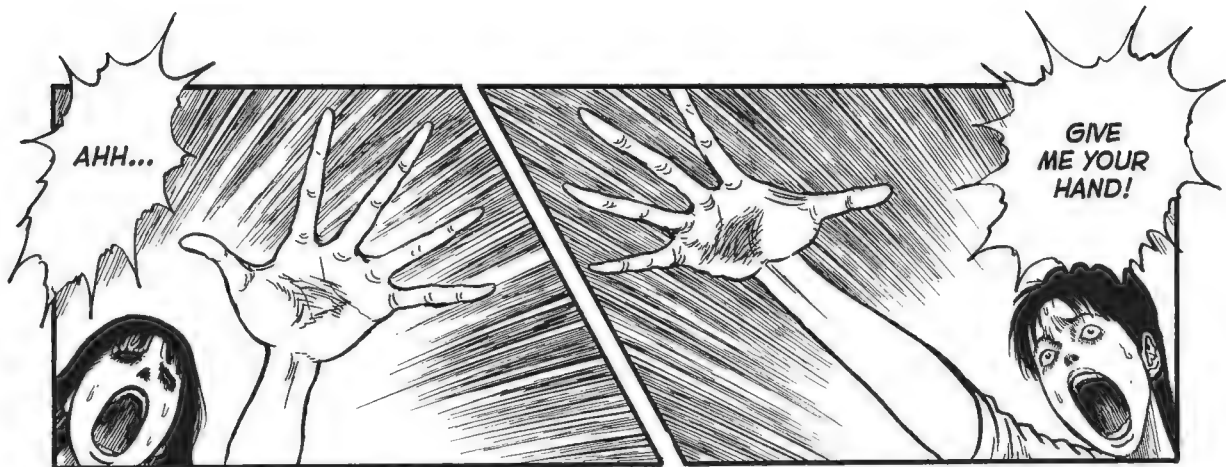
YORIKO!

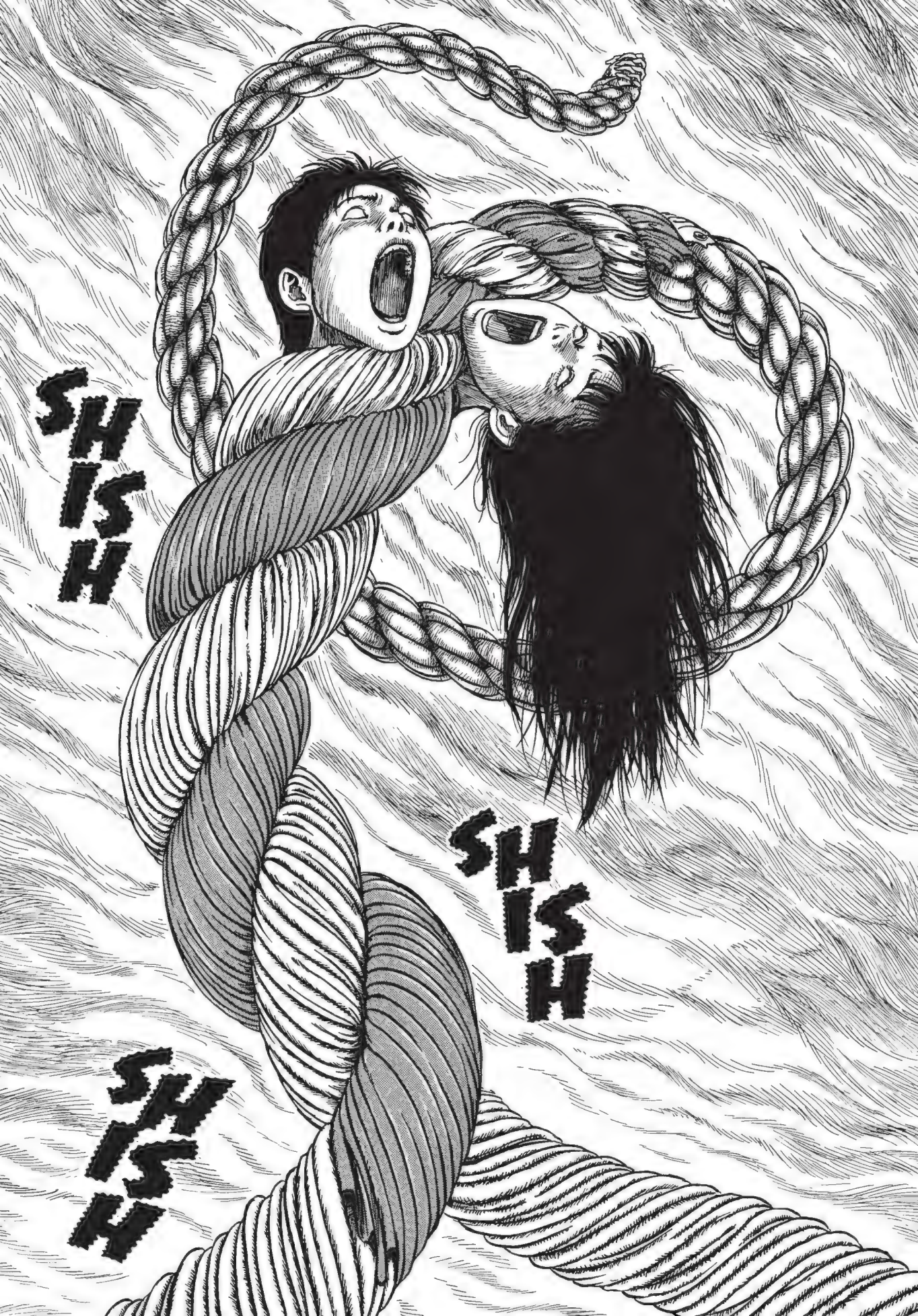
Y...
YORIKO
?!

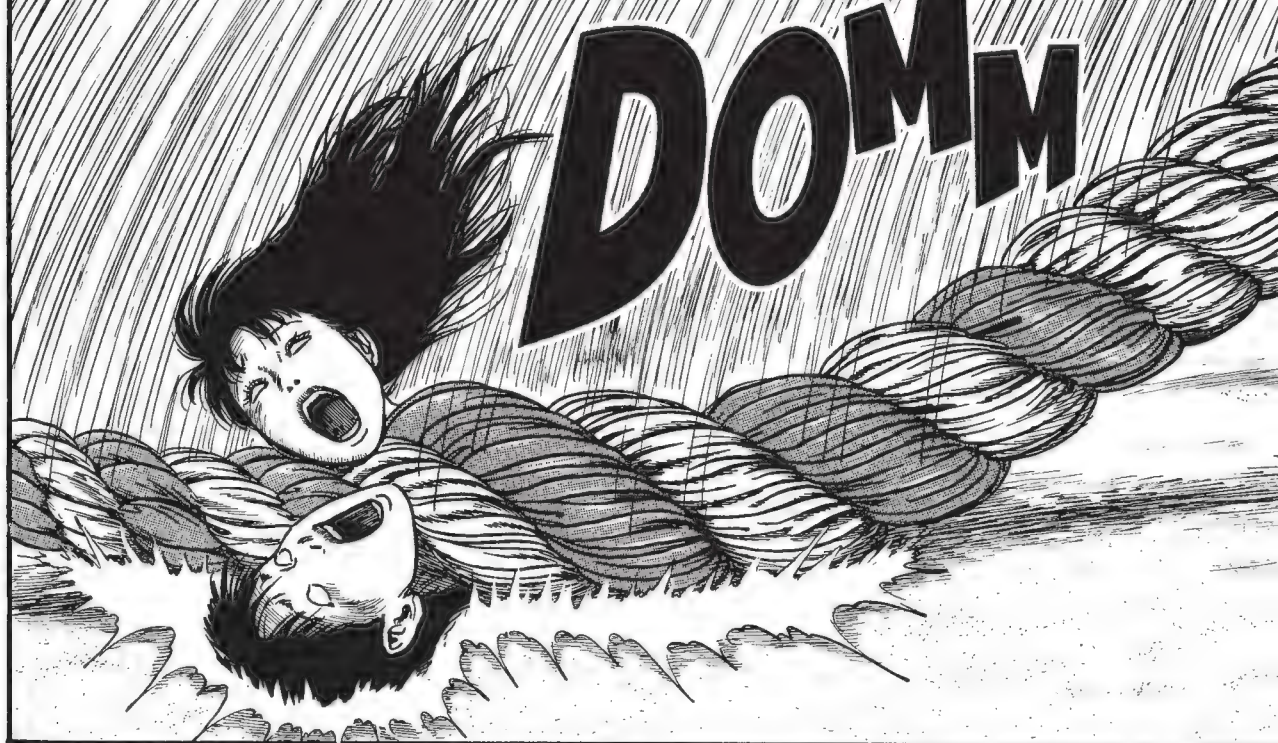
SH
P P

YORIKO!

KAZUNORI!

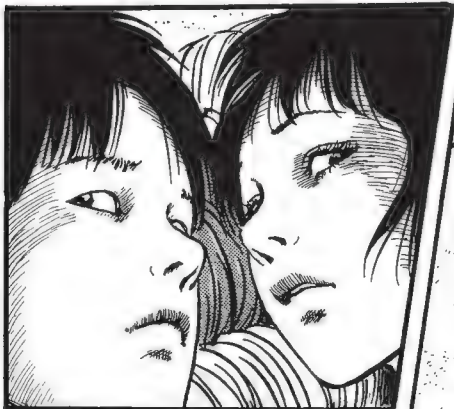






THEY'RE
LIKE
STEEL
WIRE!

OH
GOD...
IT'S
TOO
TIGHT!



YORIKO!
YORIKO!
ARE YOU
ALL
RIGHT?!

WH-WHAT'S
GOING
ON?!

WE'LL
SAVE
YOU!



THAT WAS
THE LAST WE
SAW OF THEM
BEFORE THEY
DISAPPEARED
INTO THE SEA.

SHAAAAA...

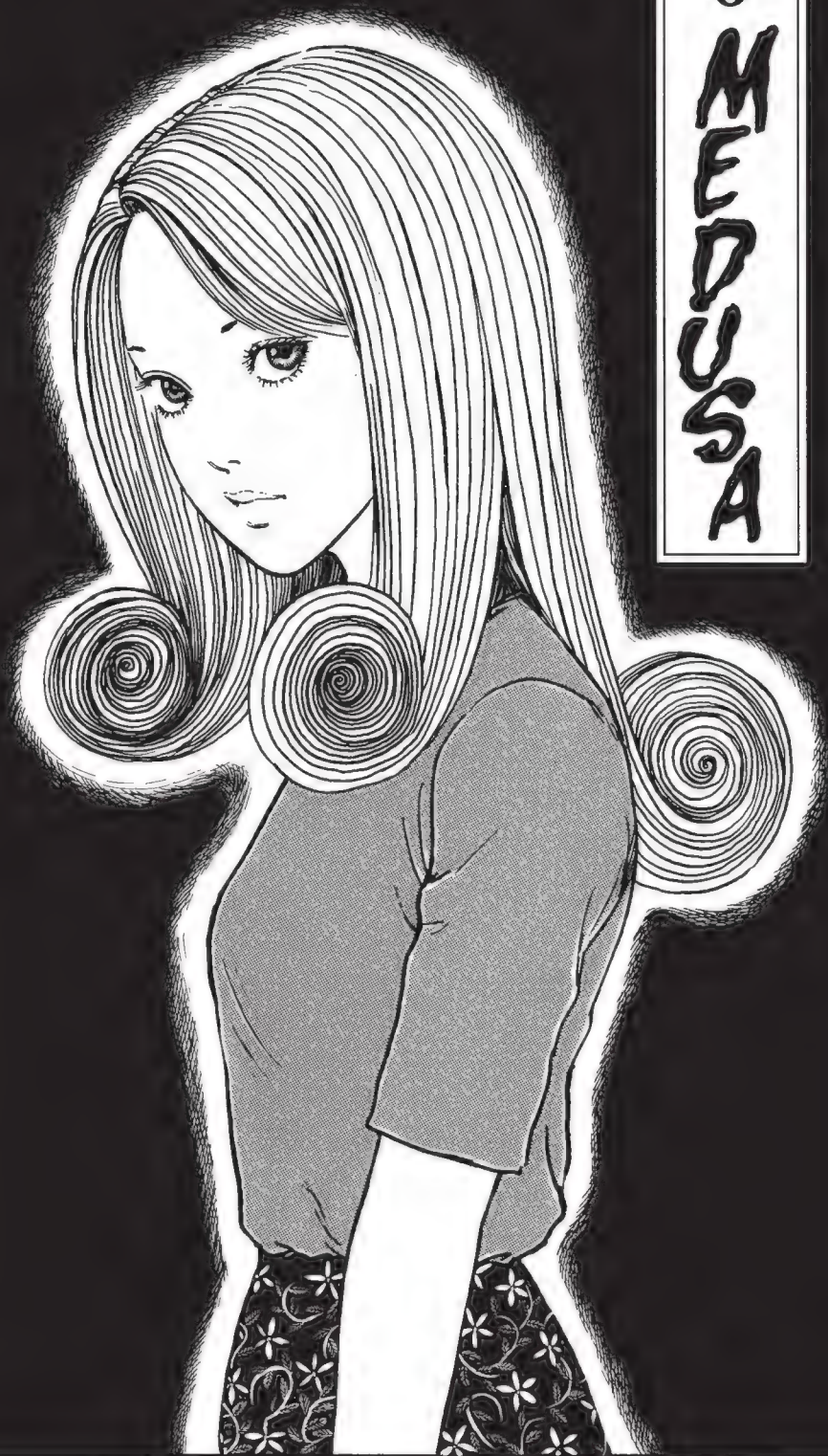
BASHOON



CHAPTER

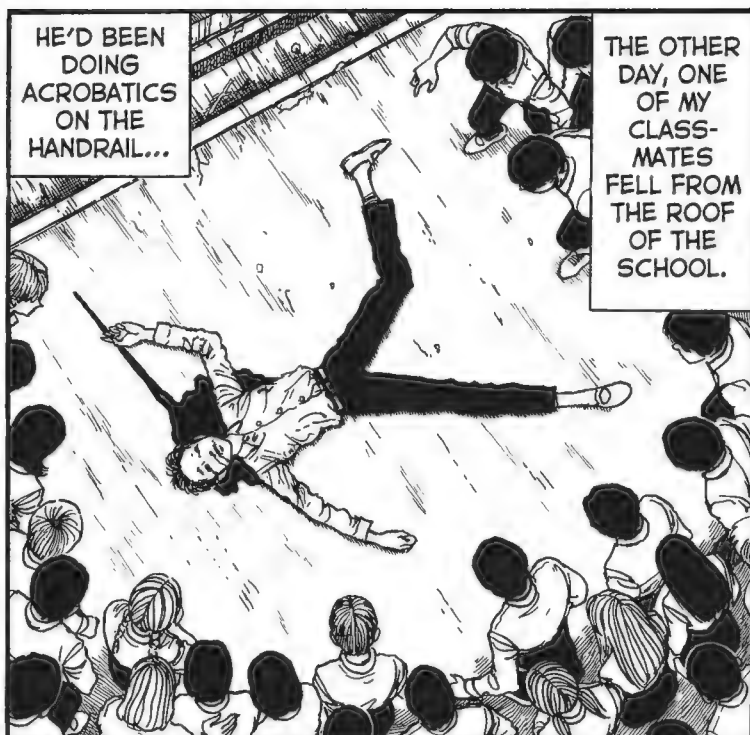
6

MEDUSA



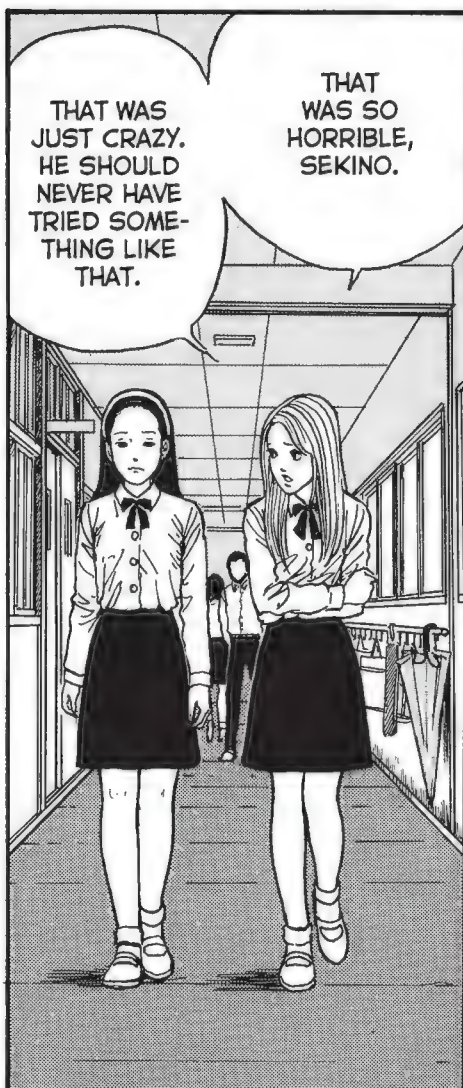


...WHEN HE
SLIPPED. HE'D
ALWAYS BEEN A
SHOW-OFF,
TRYING TO GET
PEOPLE'S
ATTENTION.



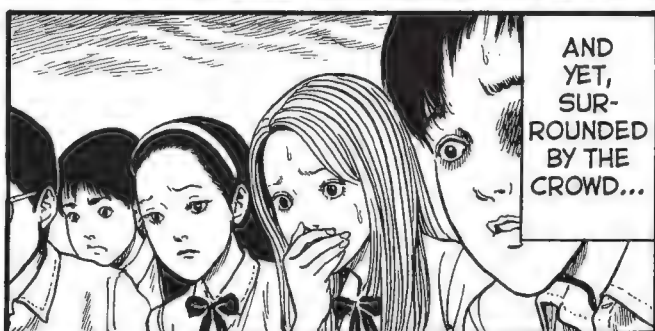
HE'D BEEN
DOING
ACROBATICS
ON THE
HANDRAIL...

THE OTHER
DAY, ONE
OF MY
CLASS-
MATES
FELL FROM
THE ROOF
OF THE
SCHOOL.



THAT WAS
JUST CRAZY.
HE SHOULD
NEVER HAVE
TRIED SOME-
THING LIKE
THAT.

THAT
WAS SO
HORRIBLE,
SEKINO.

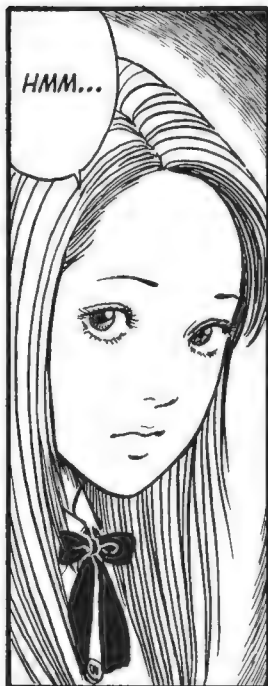
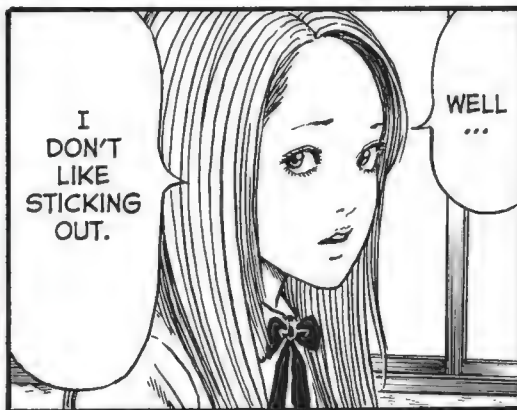


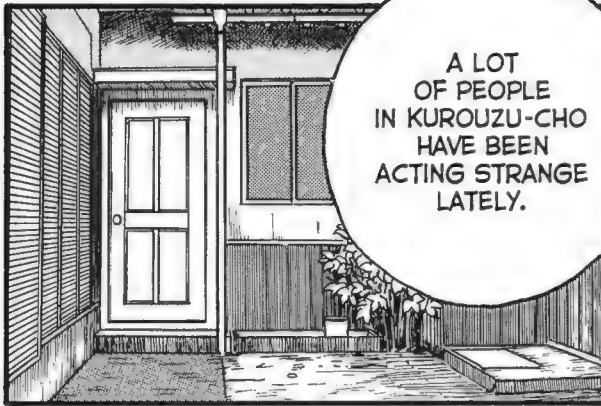
AND
YET,
SUR-
ROUNDED
BY THE
CROWD...



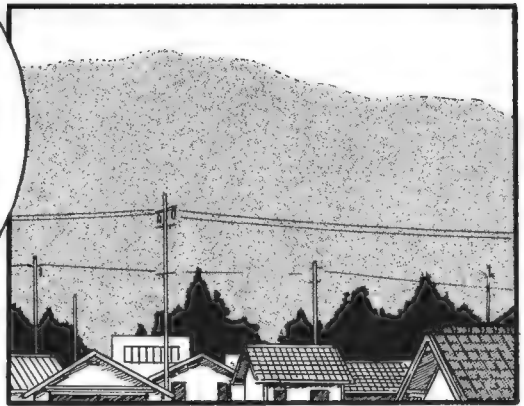
...CONTENT.

...HE
SOMEHOW
LOOKED...



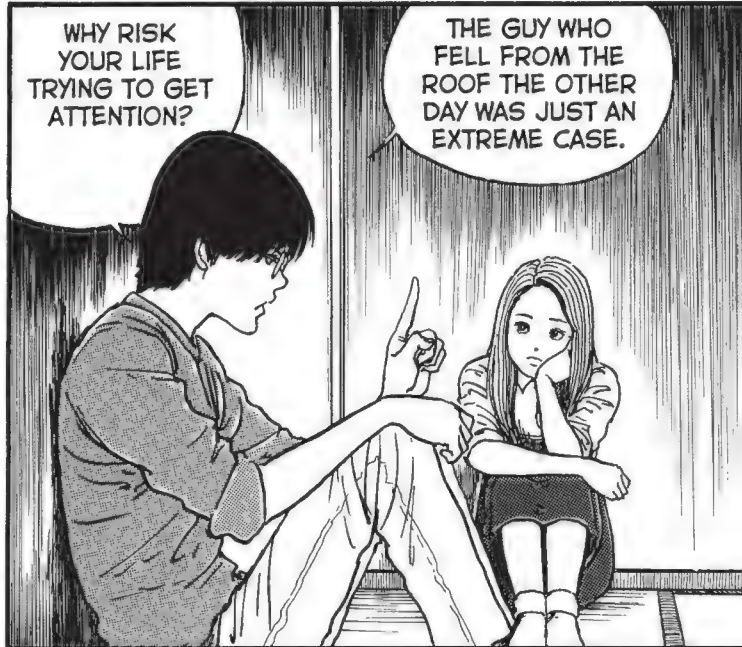


A LOT
OF PEOPLE
IN KUROUZU-CHO
HAVE BEEN
ACTING STRANGE
LATELY.



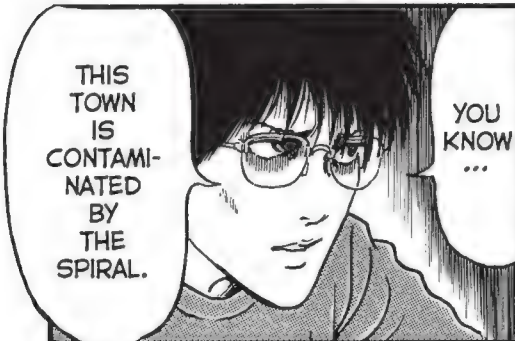
WHAT,
SHU-
ICHI?

I'M BEG-
NING
TO UNDER-
STAND.



WHY RISK
YOUR LIFE
TRYING TO GET
ATTENTION?

THE GUY WHO
FELL FROM THE
ROOF THE OTHER
DAY WAS JUST AN
EXTREME CASE.



THIS
TOWN
IS CONTAMI-
NATED BY
THE SPIRAL.

YOU
KNOW
...



IT'S
ABOUT
MESMERISM.

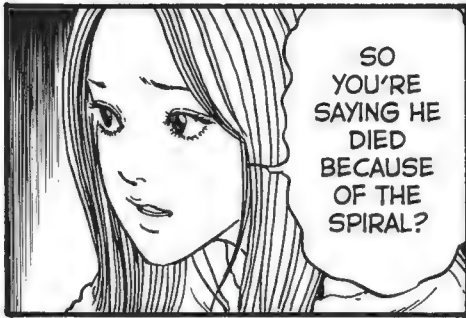
DON'T
YOU
SEE?

THEY
BOTH
HAVE THE
POWER TO
ATTRACT
PEOPLE.



WHAT
DOES
WANTING
ATTENTION
HAVE TO
DO WITH A
SPIRAL?

NOT
AGAIN.



SO
YOU'RE
SAYING HE
DIED
BECAUSE
OF THE
SPIRAL?



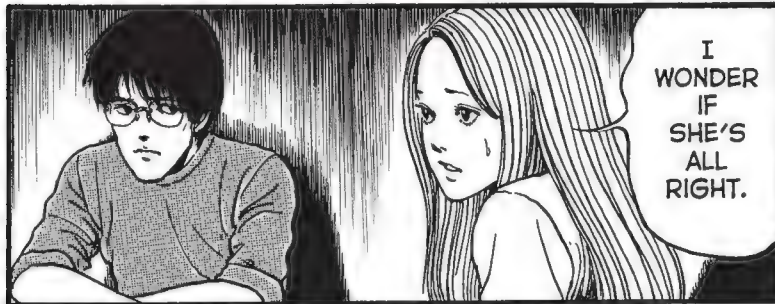
NOT
JUST HIM,
BUT
EVERYONE
WHO'S
OBSESSED
WITH
ATTENTION.

THAT'S
RIGHT.



THAT'S
WHY
PEOPLE
POSSESSED
BY THE
SPIRAL
WANT TO
GET THE
ATTENTION
OF OTHERS.

SPIRALS SUCK
THINGS IN...THE
EYE FOLLOWS
THE PATTERN TO
THE CENTER.

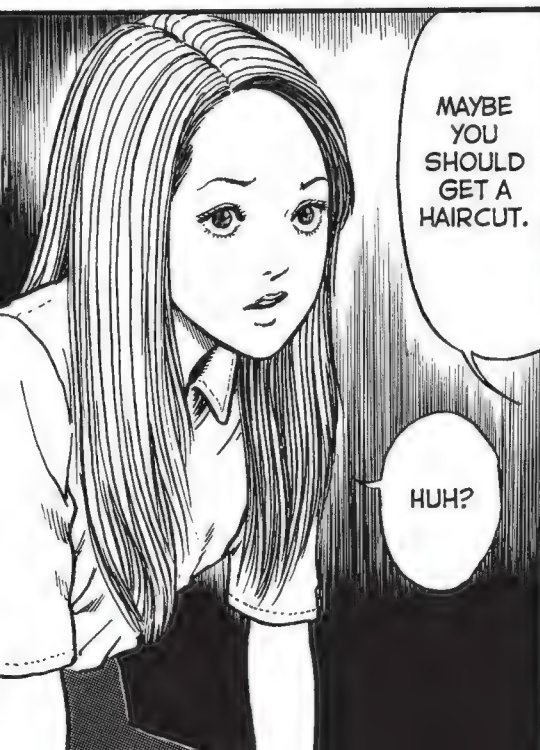


I
WONDER
IF
SHE'S
ALL
RIGHT.



TH-THAT
SOUNDS LIKE
SEKINO. SO
SHE'S ALSO
AFFECTED BY
THE SPIRAL?

PROBABLY.



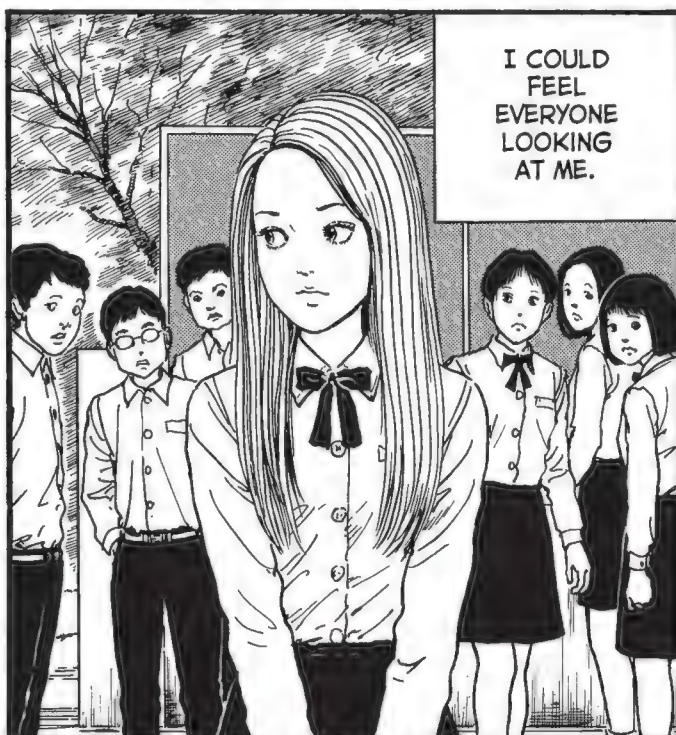
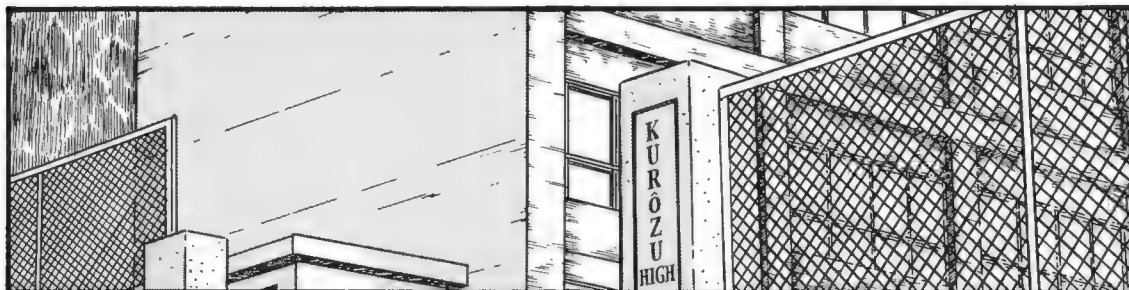
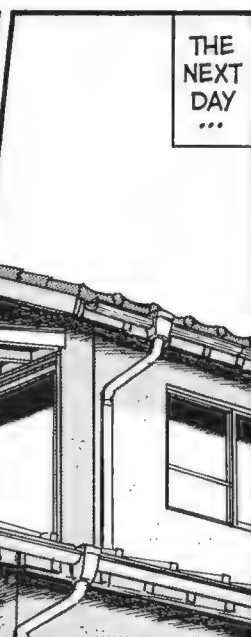
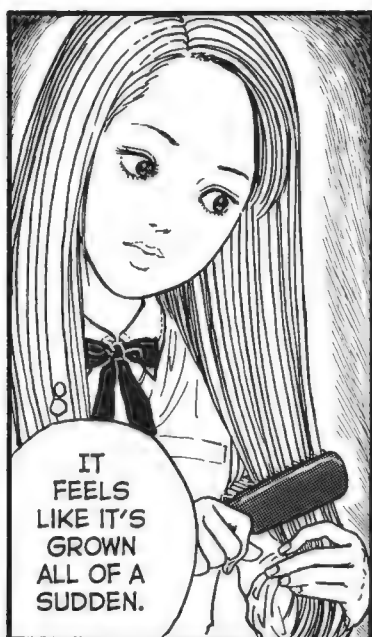
MAYBE
YOU
SHOULD
GET A
HAIRCUT.

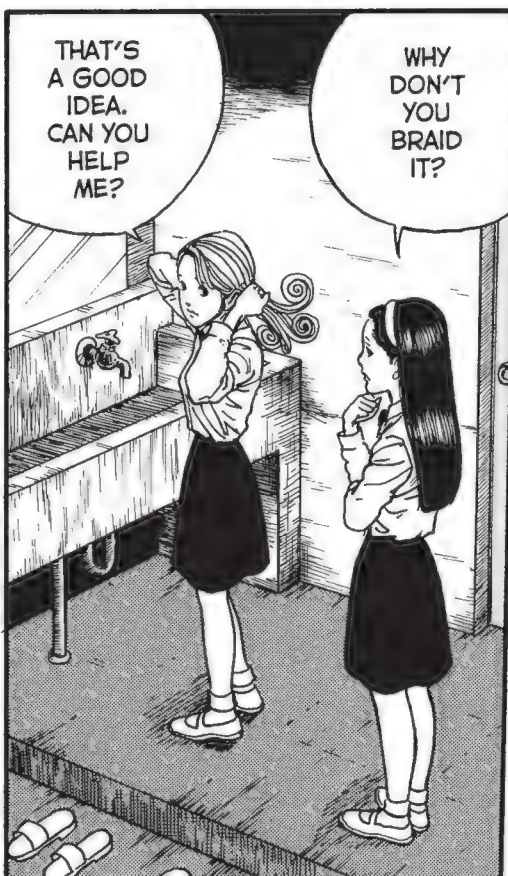
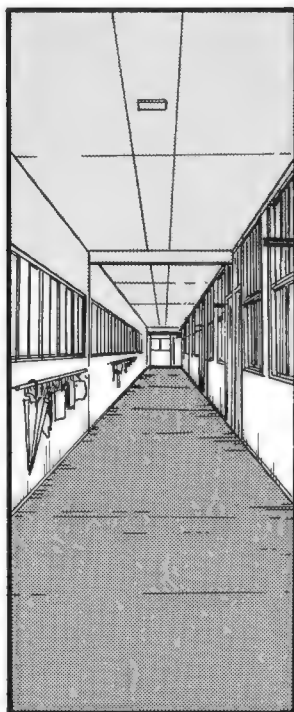
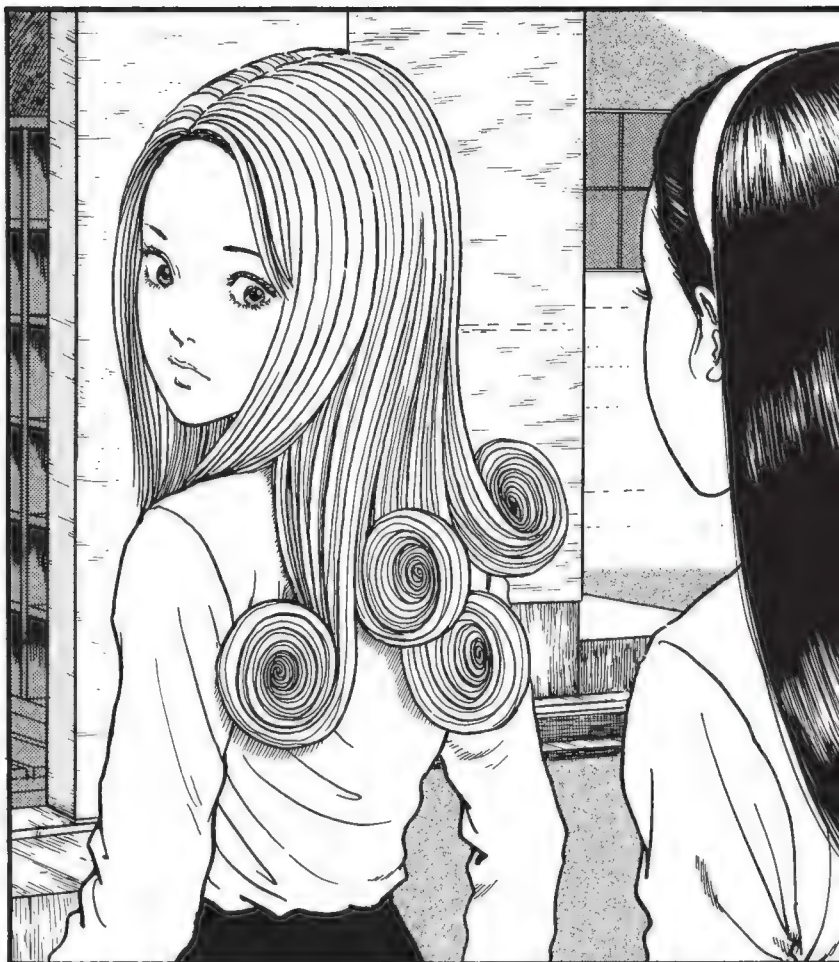
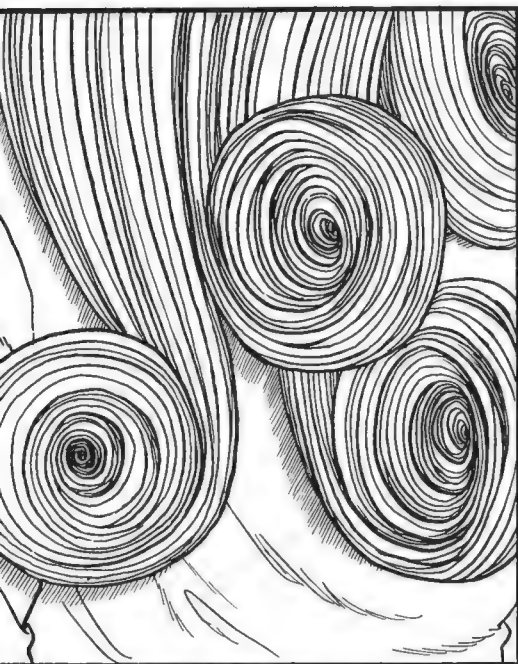
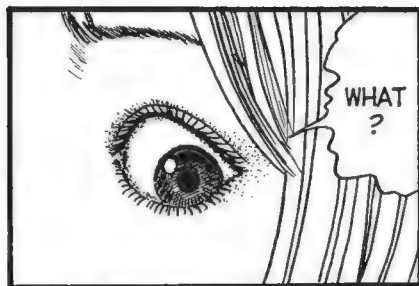
HUH?



...YOUR
HAIR'S
GETTING
LONG.

HEY,
YOU
KNOW...





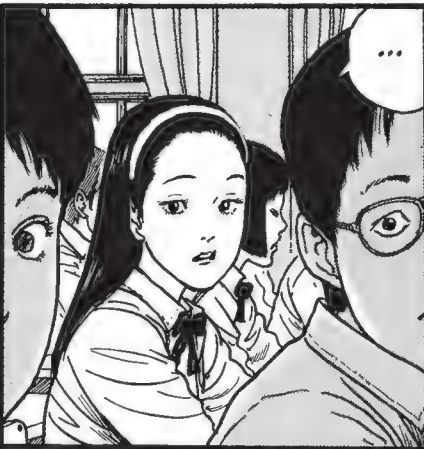
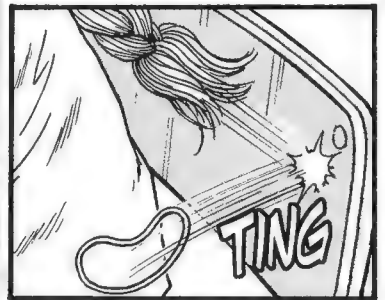
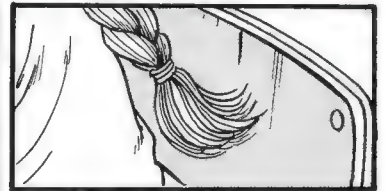
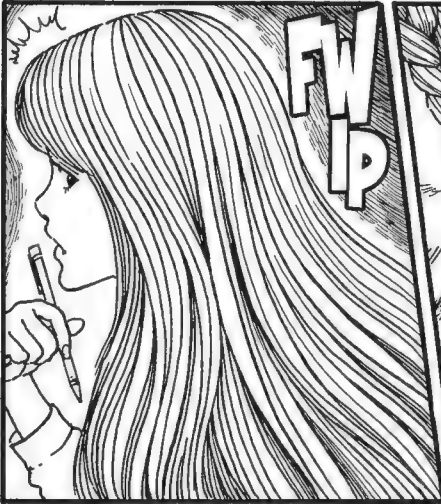
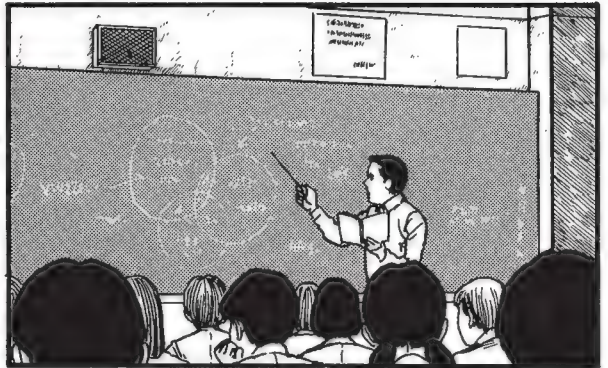
THAT'S
A GOOD
IDEA.
CAN YOU
HELP
ME?

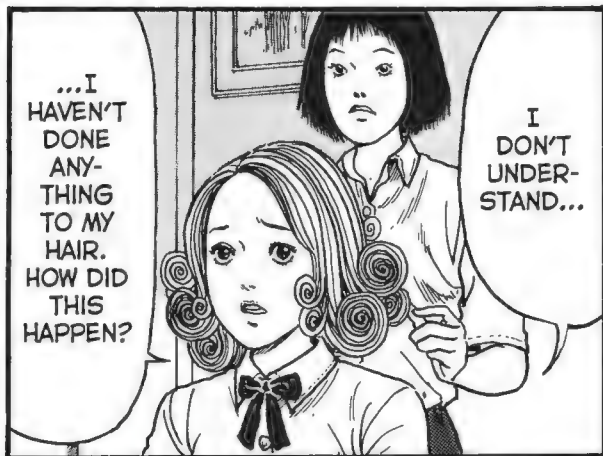
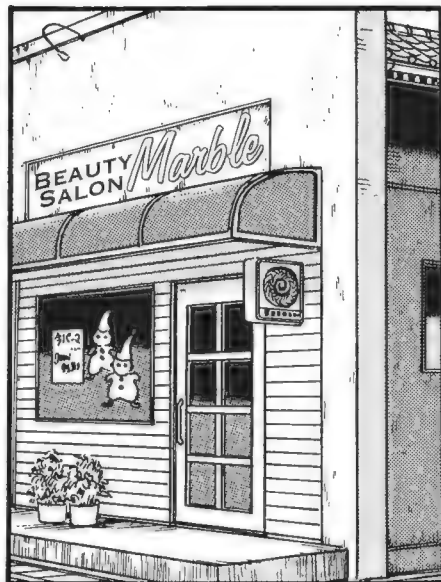
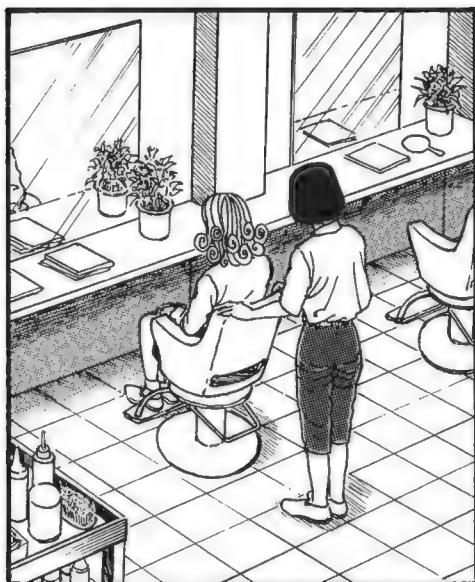
WHY
DON'T
YOU
BRAID
IT?

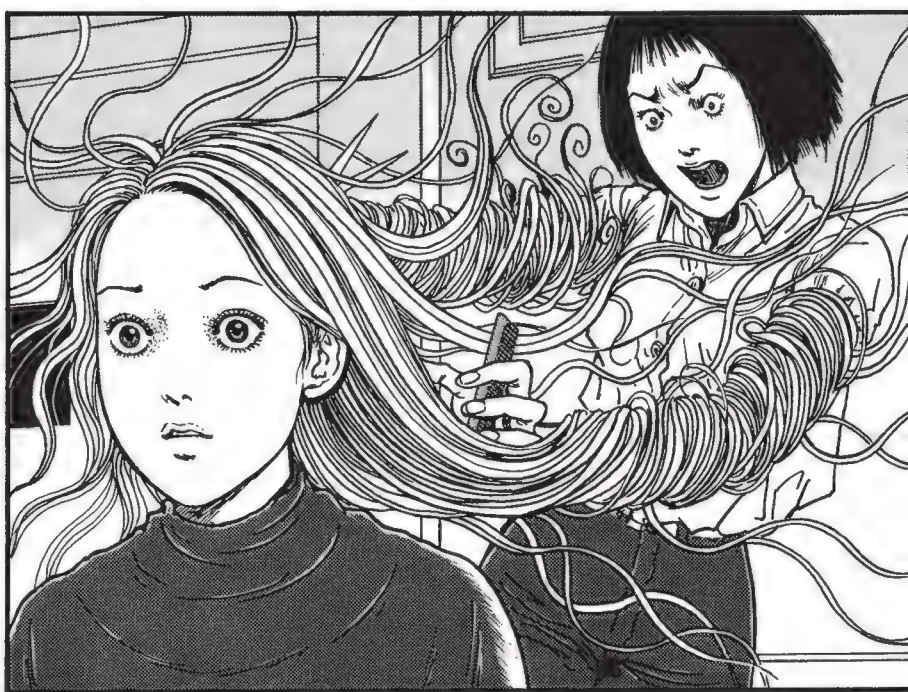


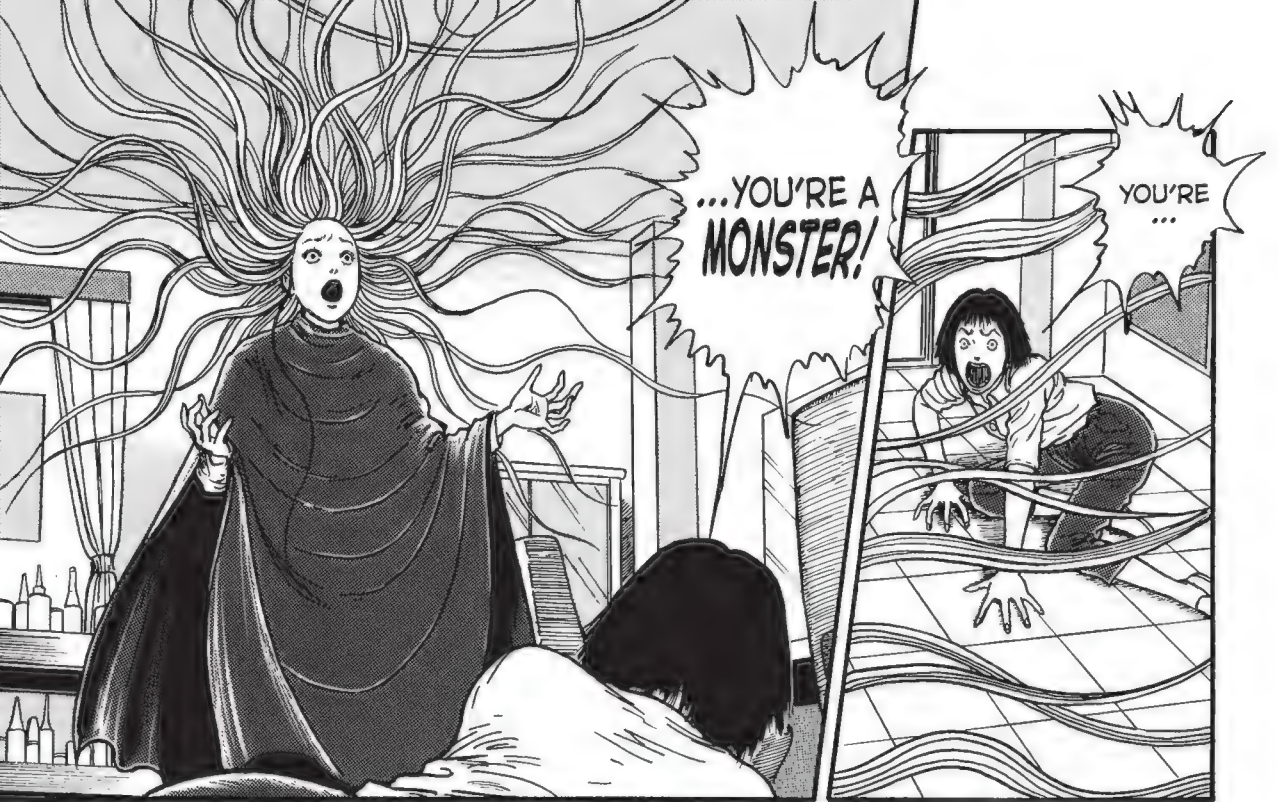
WHERE'D
THESE
CURLS
COME
FROM?

I
CAN'T
GET
RID
OF
THEM.



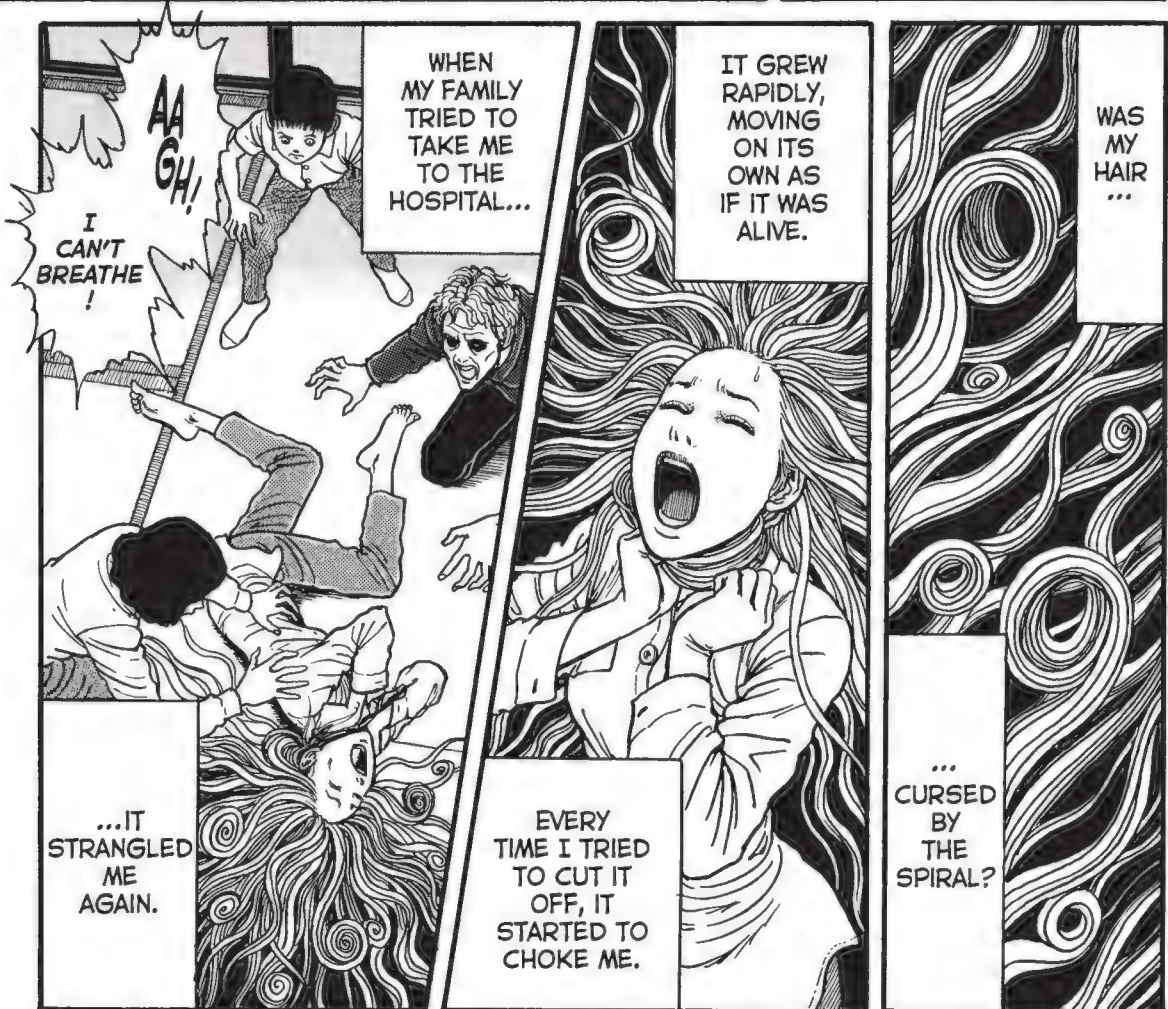






...YOU'RE A
MONSTER!

YOU'RE
...



WHEN
MY FAMILY
TRIED TO
TAKE ME
TO THE
HOSPITAL...

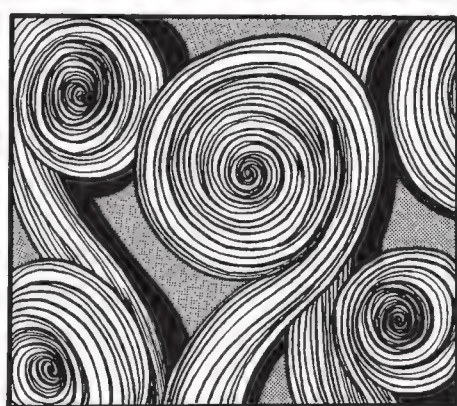
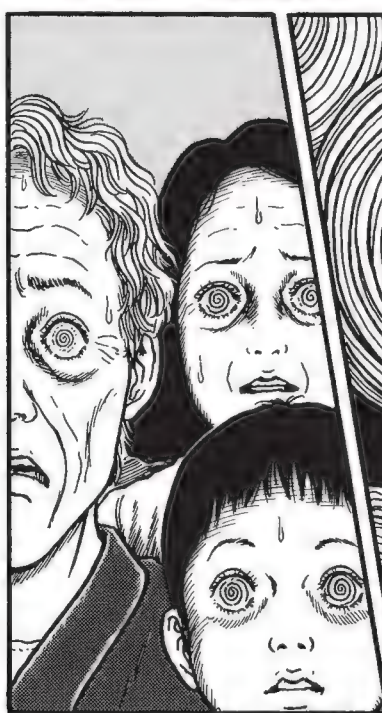
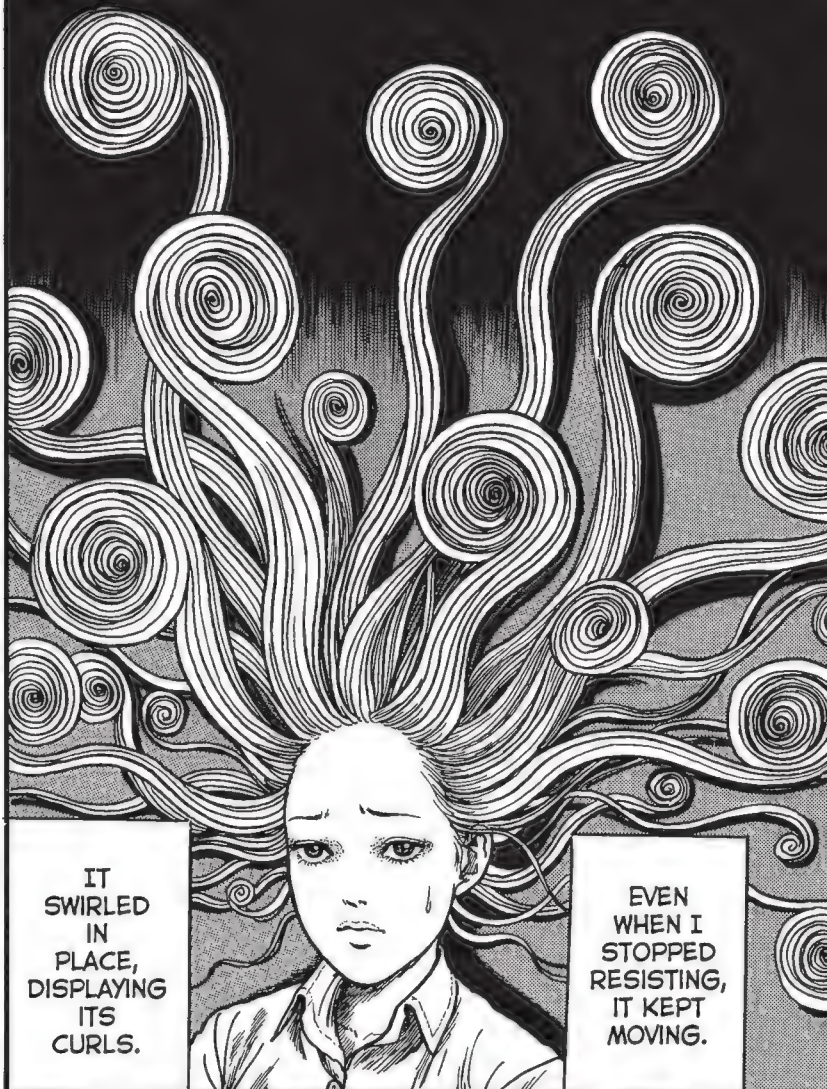
IT GREW
RAPIDLY,
MOVING
ON ITS
OWN AS
IF IT WAS
ALIVE.

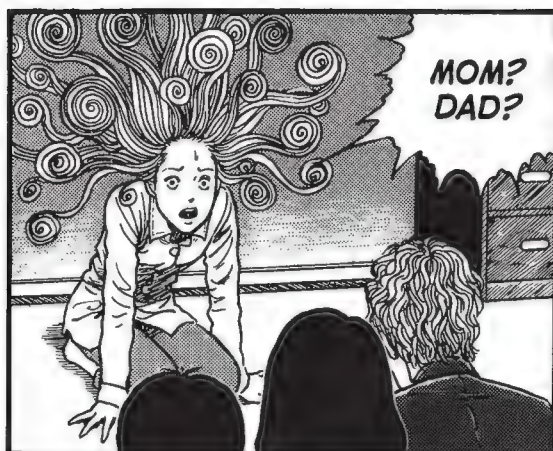
WAS
MY
HAIR
...

...
CURSED
BY
THE
SPIRAL?

...IT
STRANGLLED
ME
AGAIN.

EVERY
TIME I TRIED
TO CUT IT
OFF, IT
STARTED TO
CHOK ME.



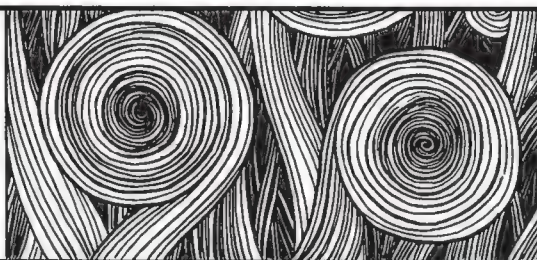


MOM?
DAD?

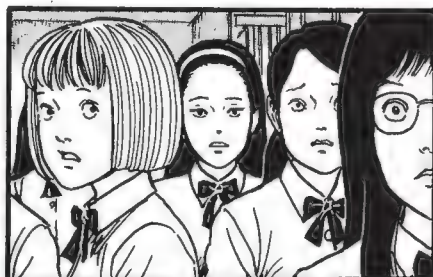
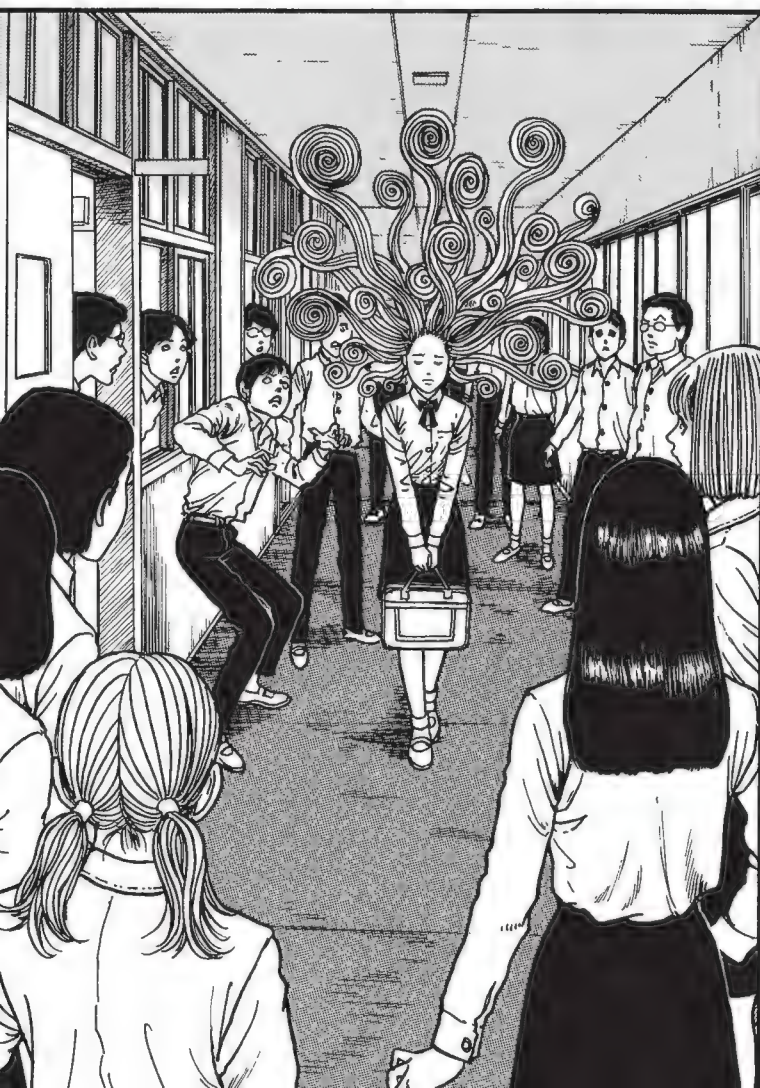


WH-WHAT'S
WRONG?

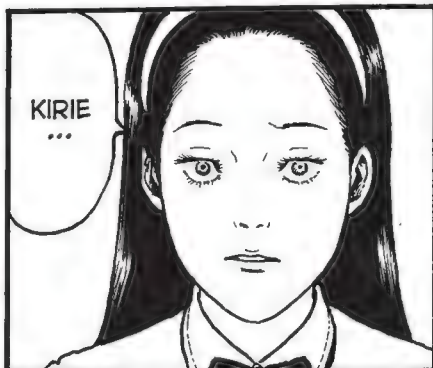
AND
IT WAS
ATTRACTED
TO
CROWDS.



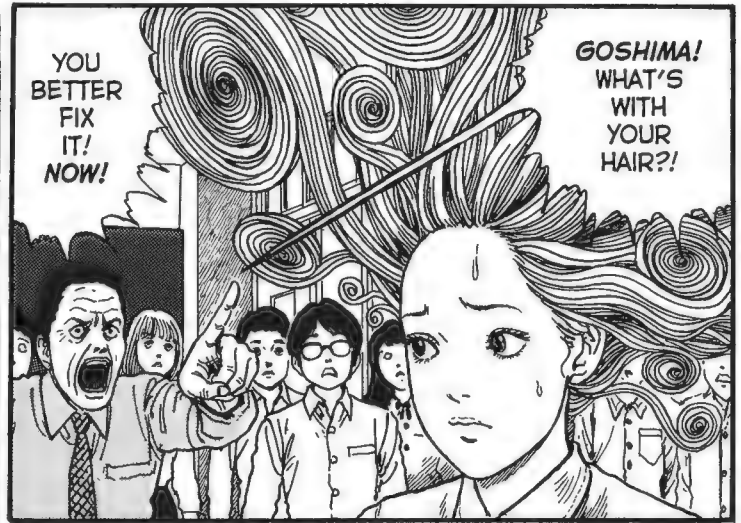
I SOON
REALIZED THAT
MY HAIR HAD
THE POWER TO
MESMERIZE
PEOPLE WHO
LOOKED AT IT.

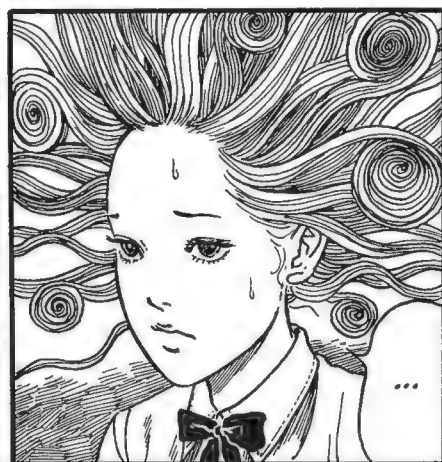
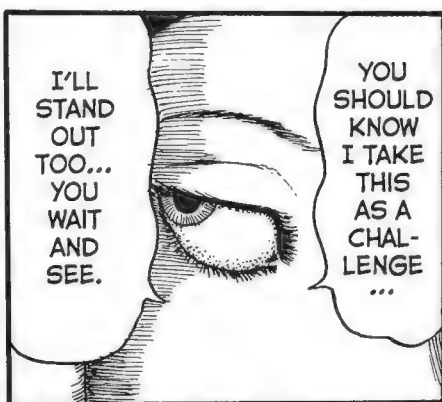
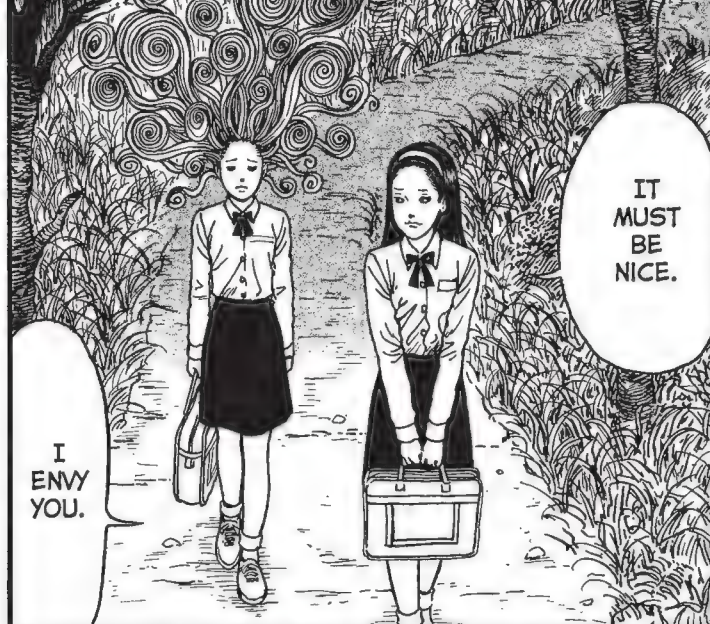


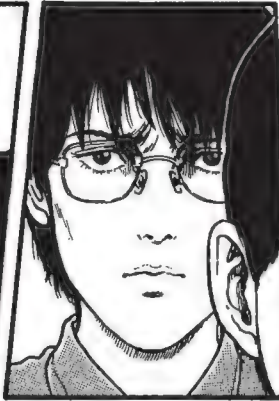
13

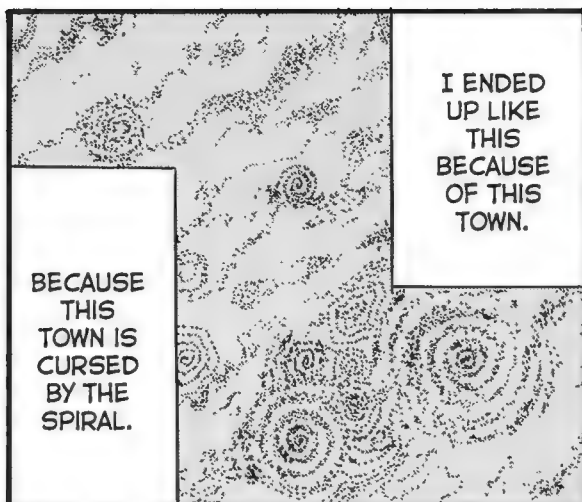


KIRIE
...







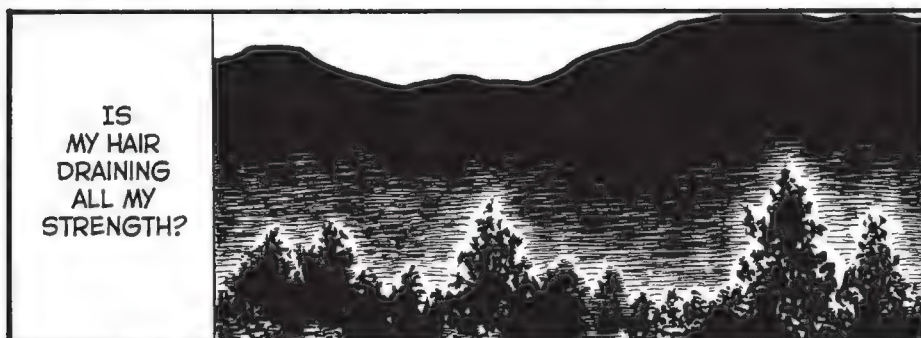


BECAUSE
THIS
TOWN IS
CURSED
BY THE
SPIRAL.

I ENDED
UP LIKE
THIS
BECAUSE
OF THIS
TOWN.



...



IS
MY HAIR
DRAINING
ALL MY
STRENGTH?

NOW
I'M TOO
WEAK TO
GET AWAY
FROM
HERE...



LOOK
AT
ME!

GOOD
MORNING
KIRIE!



...GROW-
ING
AND
GROW-
ING.

MY
HAIR
KEPT
ON...



WOW!



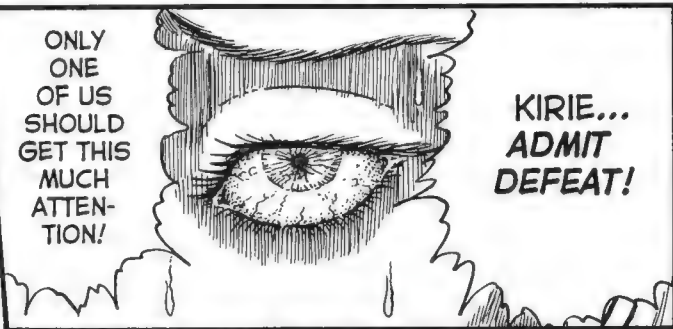
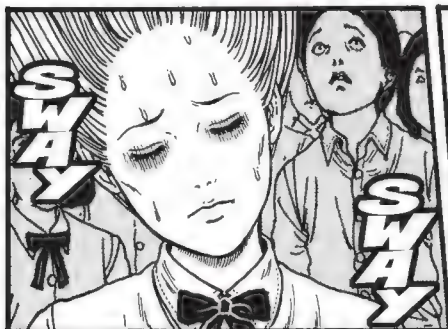
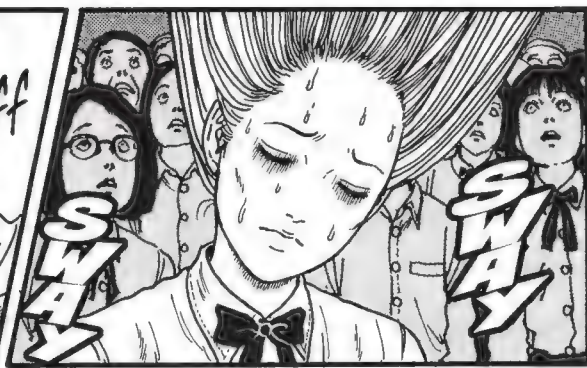


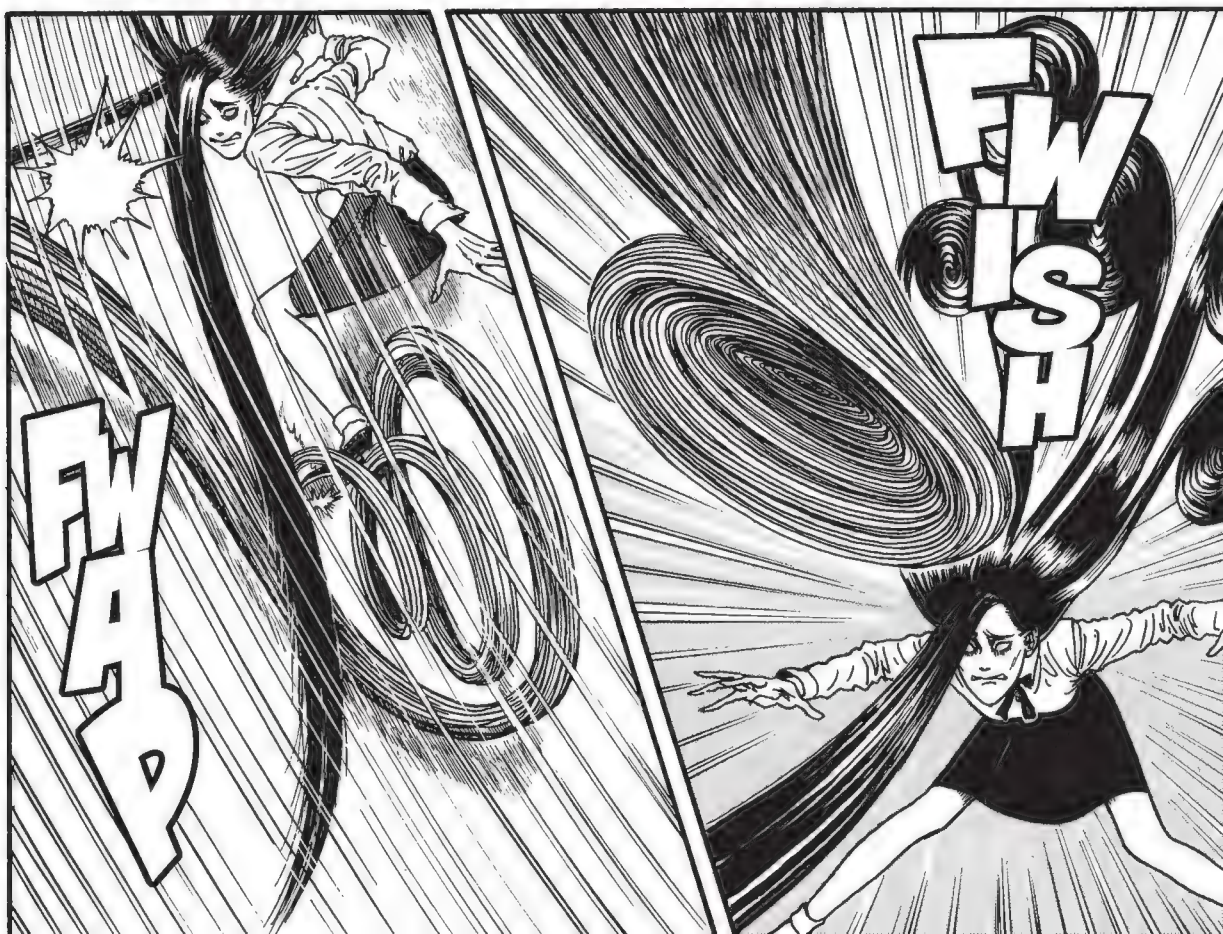
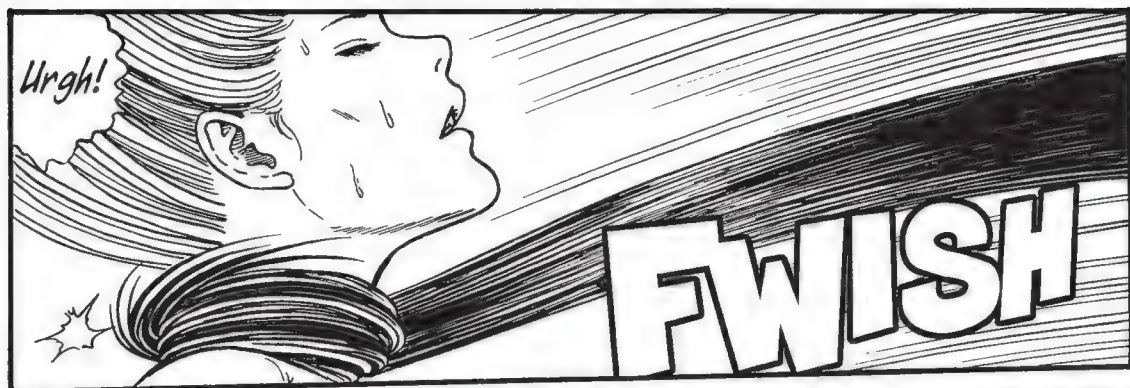
HER HAIR AND
MINE KEPT
CURLING AND
DISPLAYING
RELENTLESSLY.

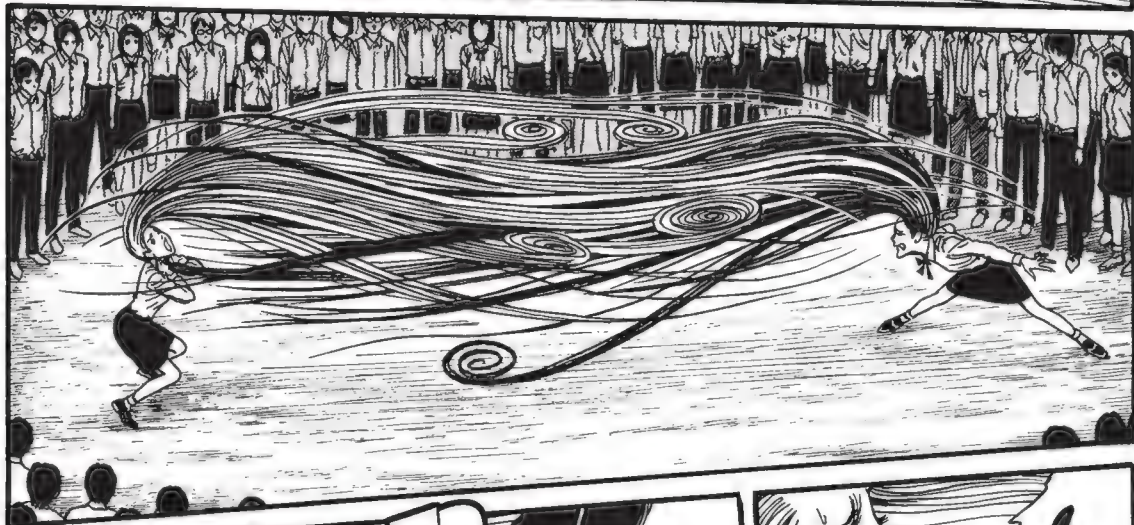
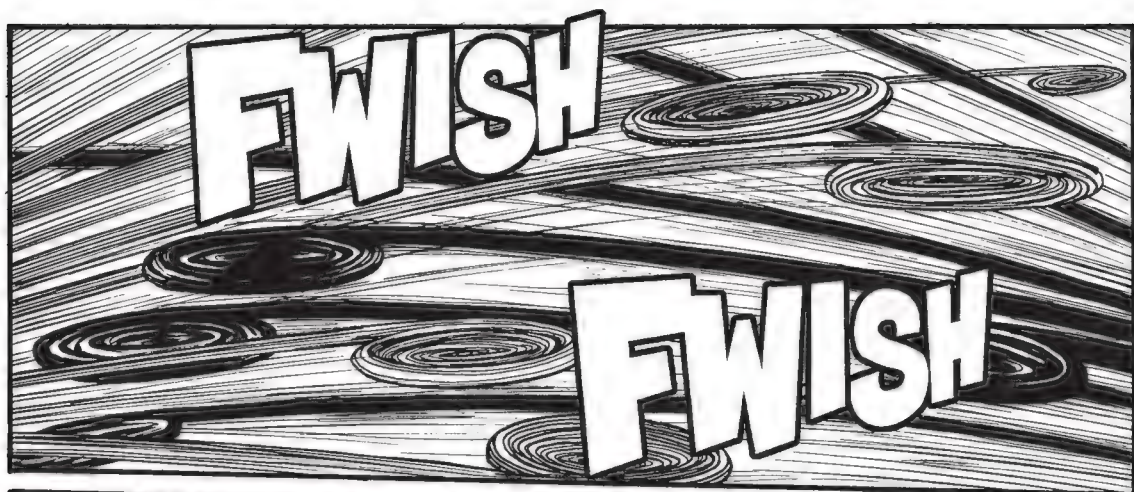
FROM THAT
DAY ON THE
SCHOOL
WAS A
BATTLEFIELD.

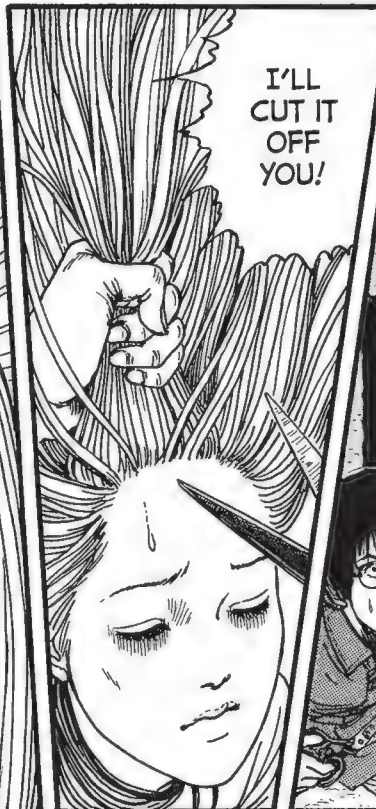
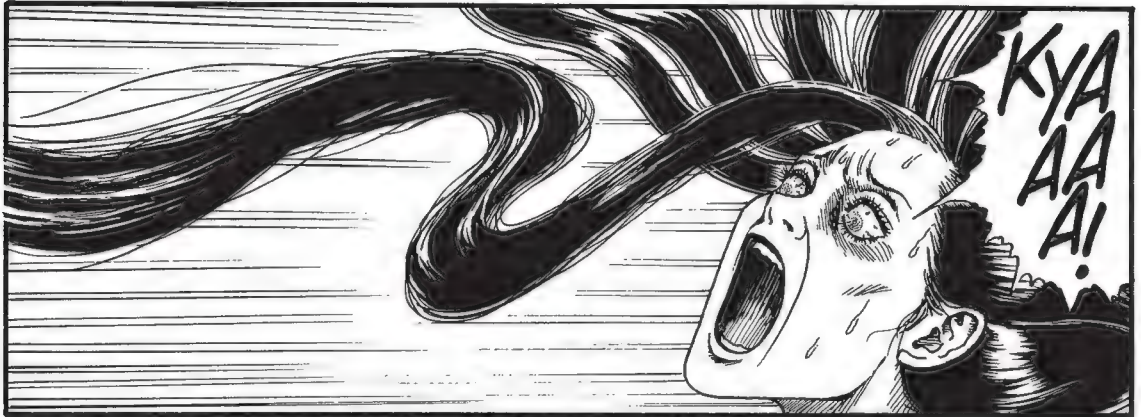
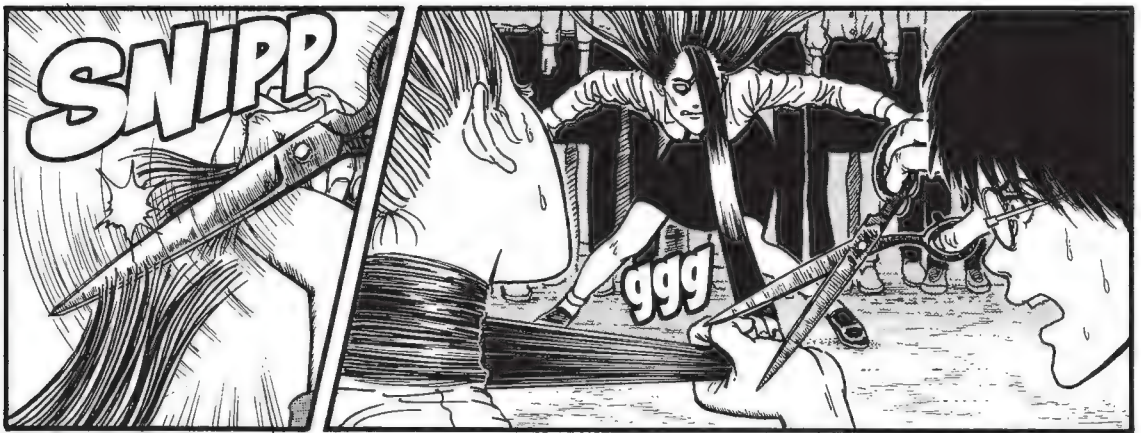
STUDENTS AND
TEACHERS LEFT
THEIR CLASSES
AND STARED
VACANTLY AT
THE SIGHT.

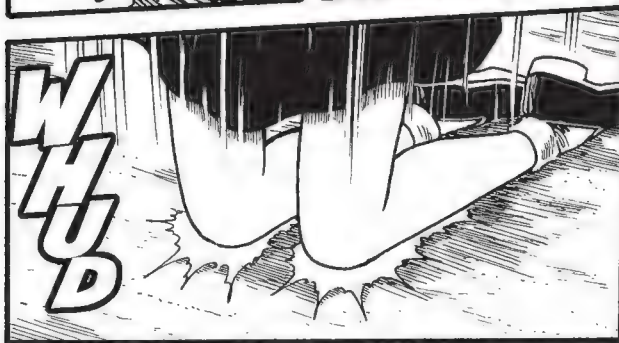


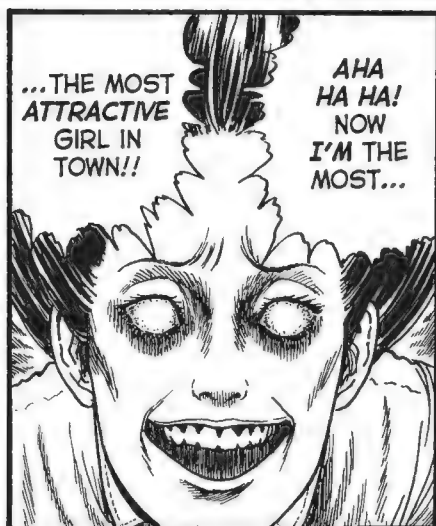






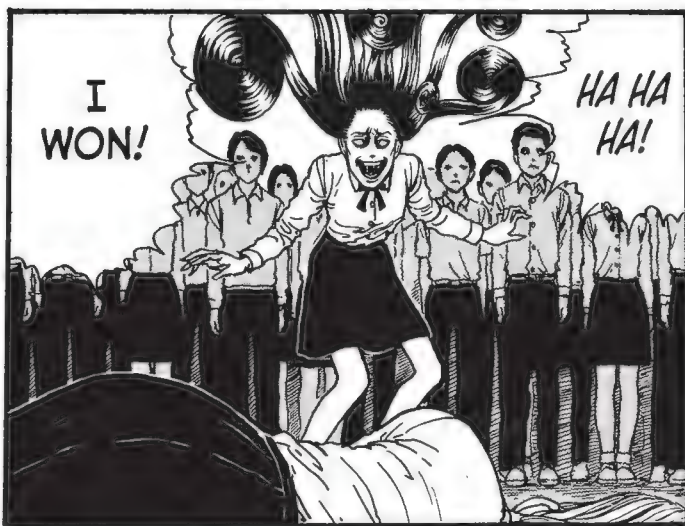






...THE MOST
ATTRACTIVE
GIRL IN
TOWN!!

AHA
HA HA!
NOW
I'M THE
MOST...



I
WON!

HA HA
HA!



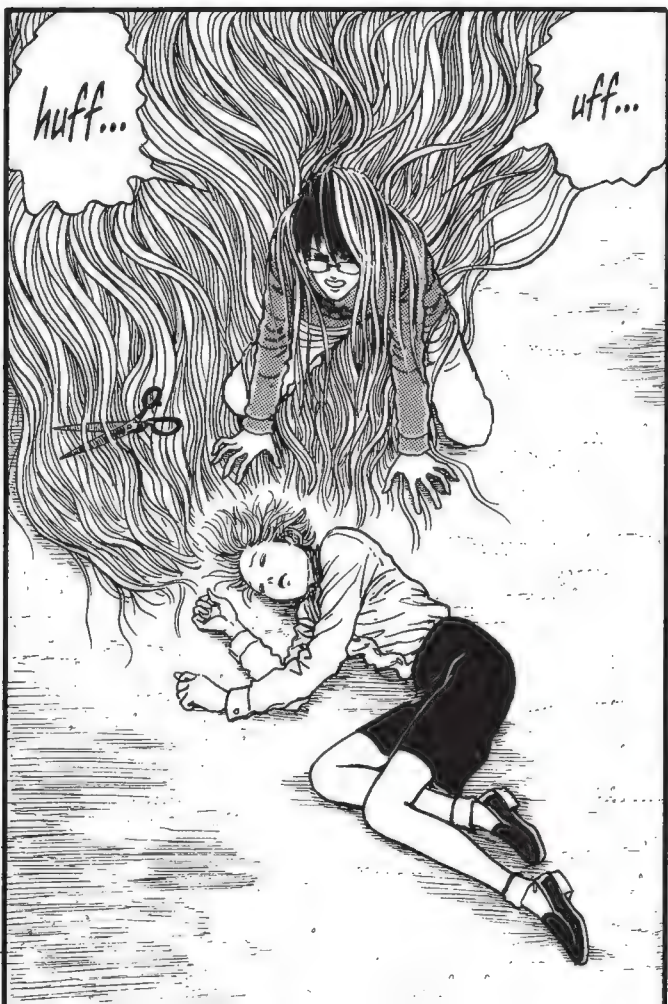
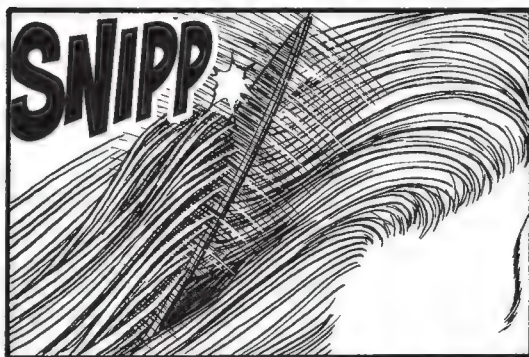
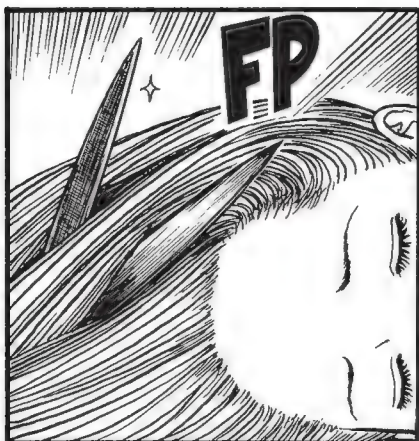
HSSS
HSSS

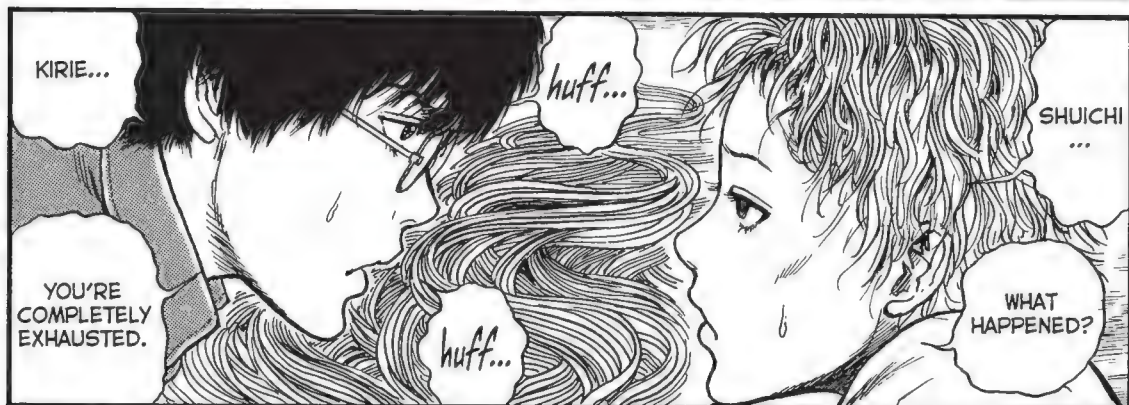
HA
HA
HA!



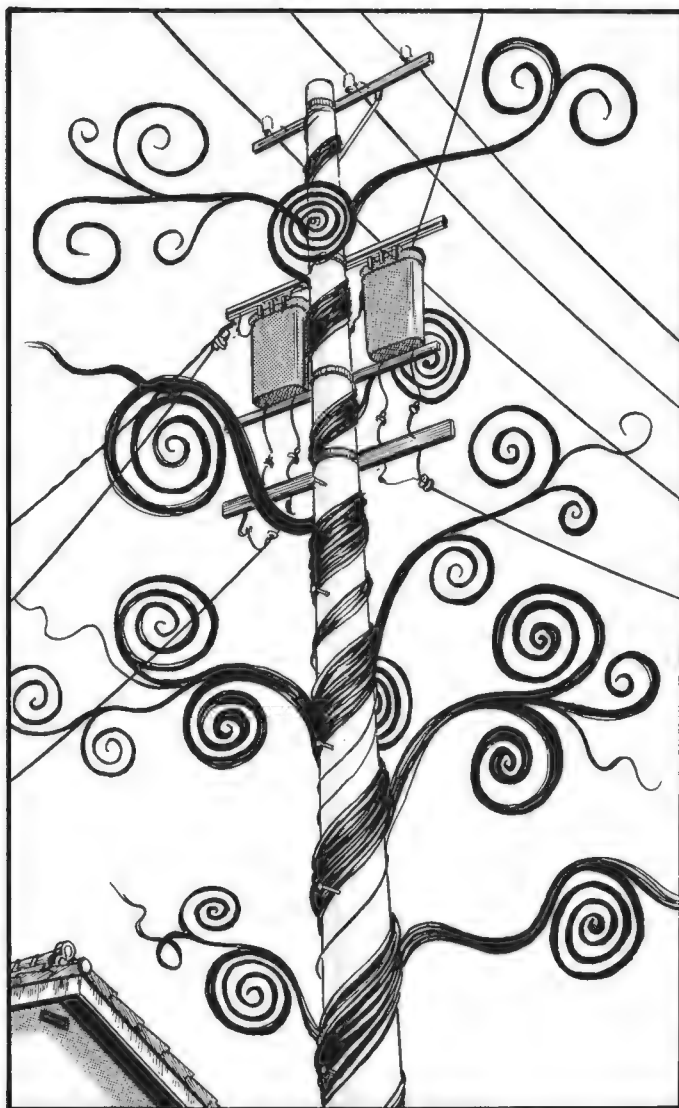
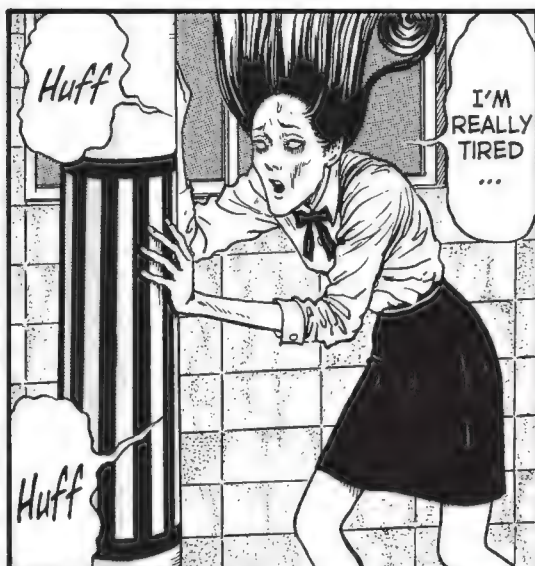
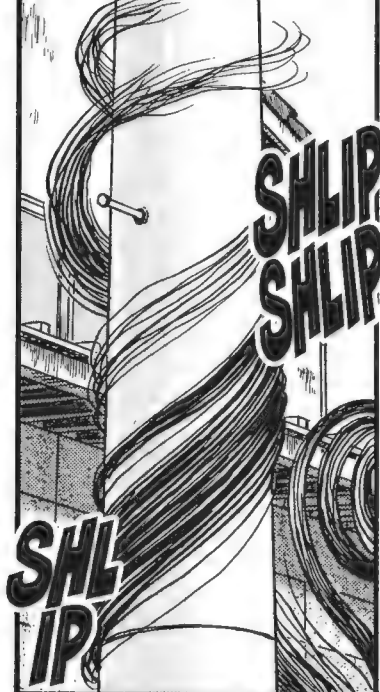
NOW
I'LL SHOW
ALL OF
KUROZU-CHO!

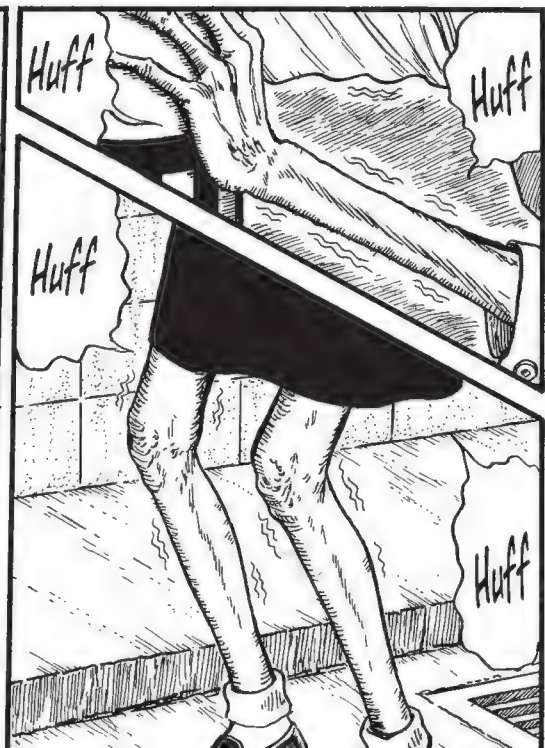
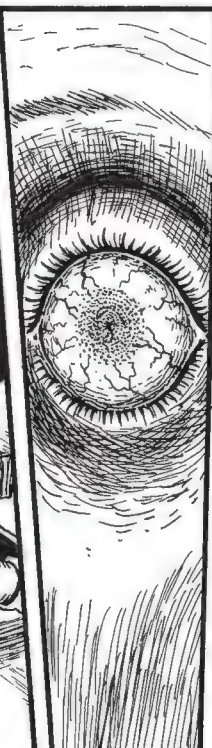
EVERYONE,
FOLLOW
ME!













HER HAIR
REMAINED ON
THE TELEPHONE
POLE...
DISPLAYING
ITSELF...
FOR SEVERAL
HOURS.



JACK-
IN-
THE-
BOX





BOO!

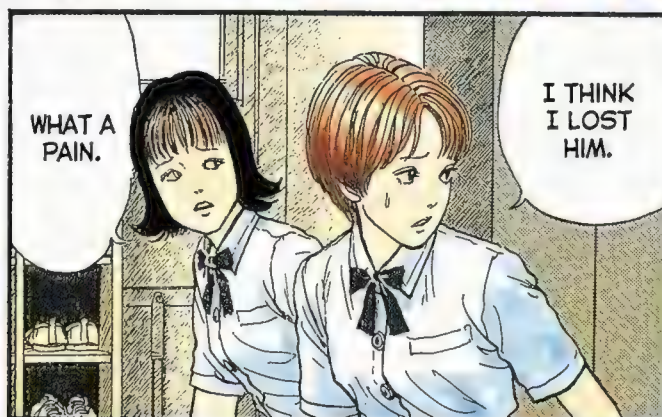
EVERYONE
CALLED HIM
"JACK-IN-THE-
BOX."

HE LOVED
TO JUMP
OUT AND
SURPRISE
PEOPLE.



IN MY
SCHOOL
THERE WAS
A SEVENTH-
GRADER
NAMED
MITSURU
YAMAGUCHI.

BOO!



WHAT A
PAIN.

I THINK
I LOST
HIM.



GOOD
IDEA,
SHIHO.

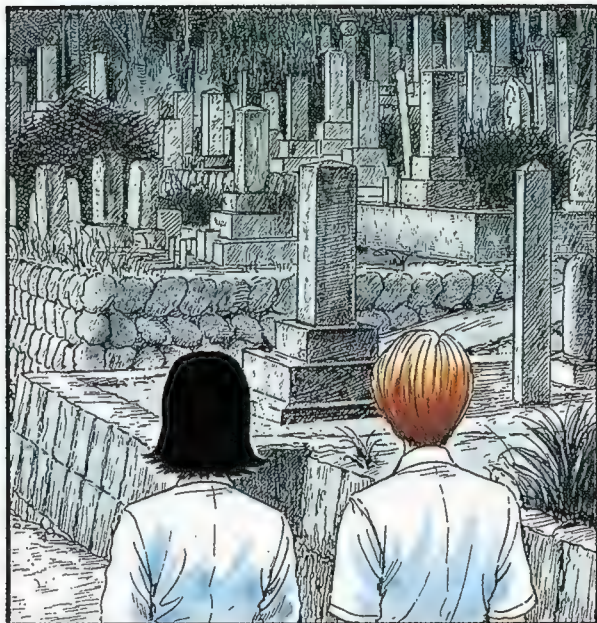
LET'S
HURRY
HOME
BEFORE
HE
FINDS
YOU.



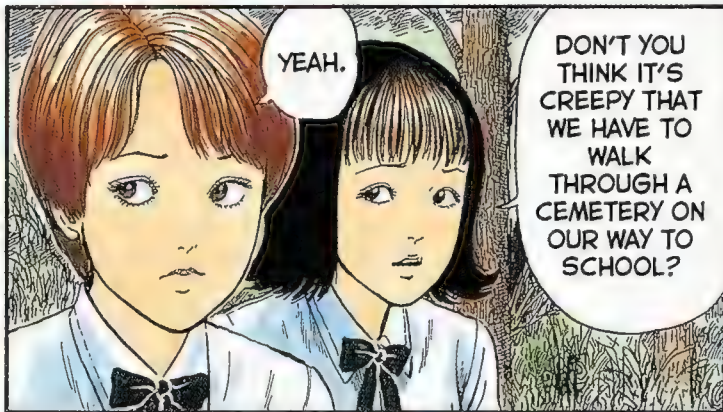
ONE DAY I
REALIZED HE
LIKED ME.

KIRIE!
LET'S
GO OUT
SOME-
TIME!

IT GOT
ON MY
NERVES
PRETTY
FAST.



HEY,
KIRIE...



YEAH.

DON'T YOU
THINK IT'S
CREEPY THAT
WE HAVE TO
WALK
THROUGH A
CEMETERY ON
OUR WAY TO
SCHOOL?

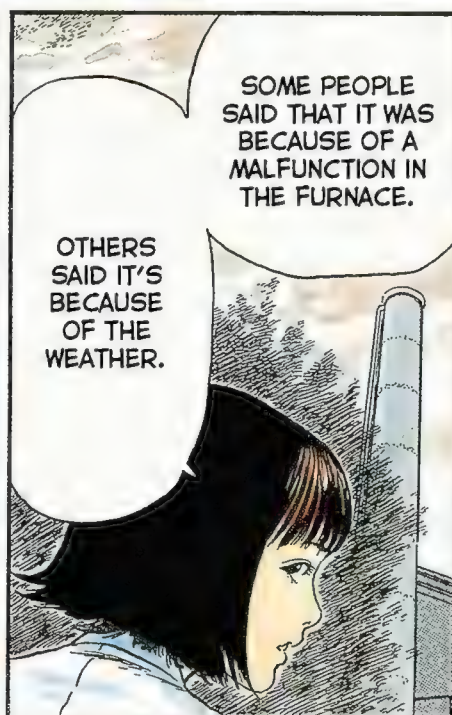
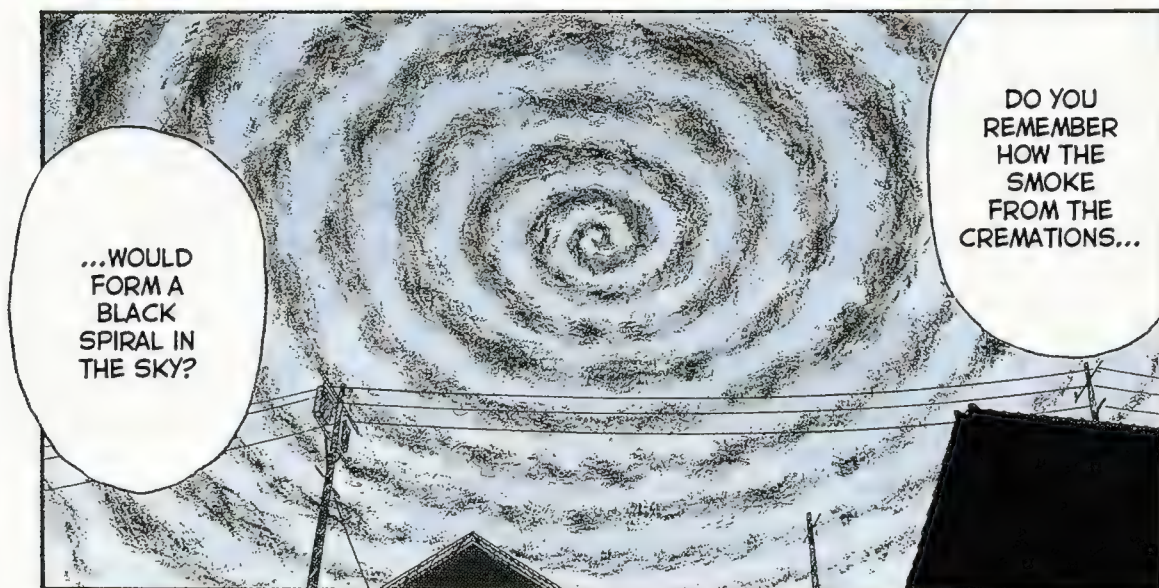
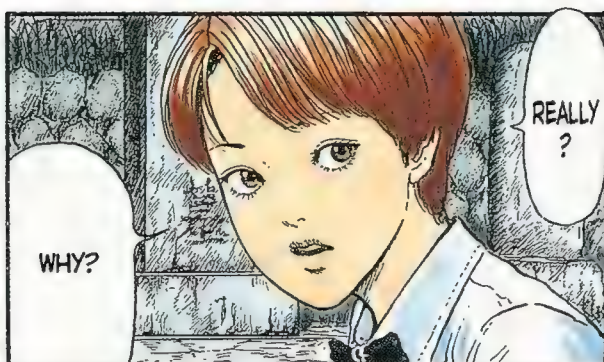
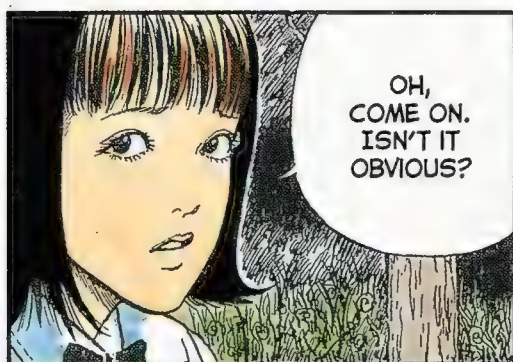


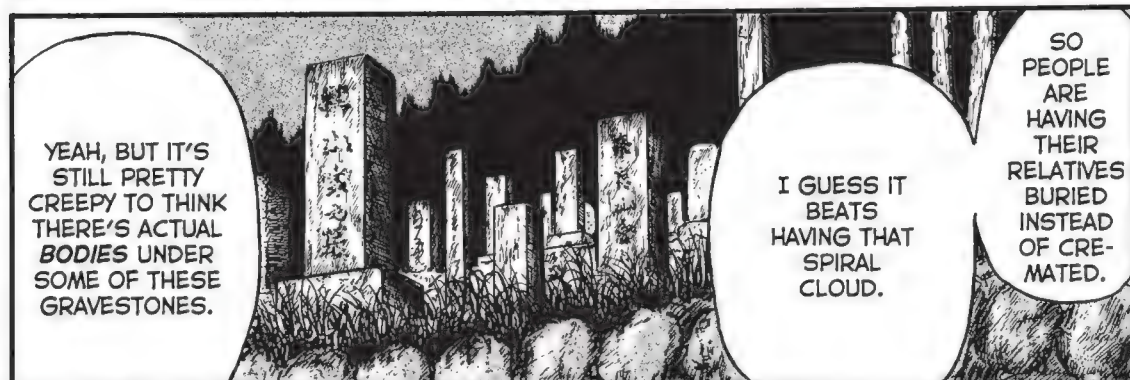
BURYING THEM,
INSTEAD OF
CREMATING
THEM.

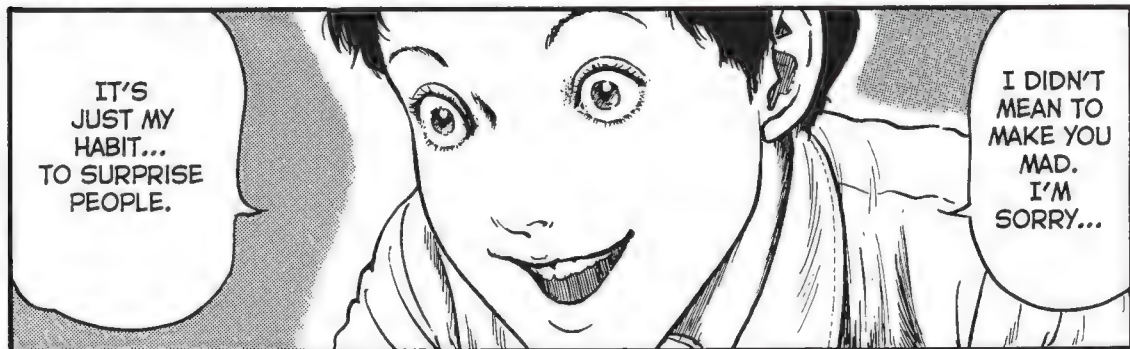
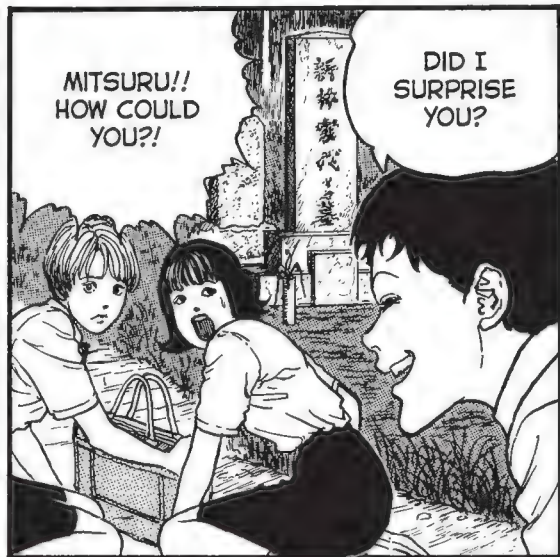


THEY'RE
WHAT?

DID YOU HEAR
THEY'RE
BURYING
PEOPLE
AGAIN?







I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU MAD. I'M SORRY...





I LOVE
YOU,
KIRIE!



THE JACK-
IN-THE-BOX
KEPT
FOLLOWING
ME.

BOO!



I WISH MY
HANDS
COULD
REACH INTO
YOUR ROOM!



I LOVE
YOU!!

COME OUT,
KIRIE!



...MITSURU
YAMAGU-
CHI.

LET'S
SEE...

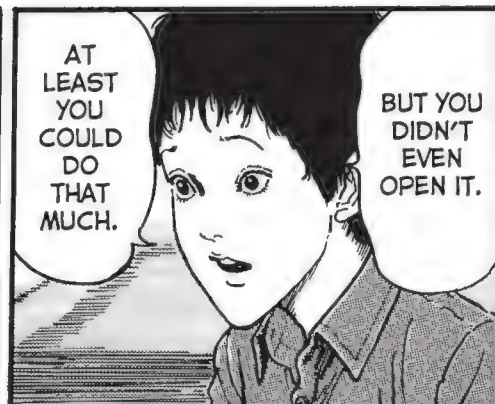
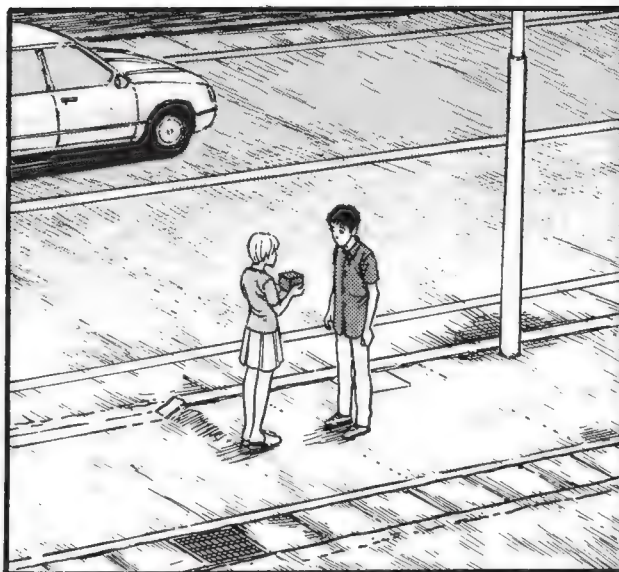


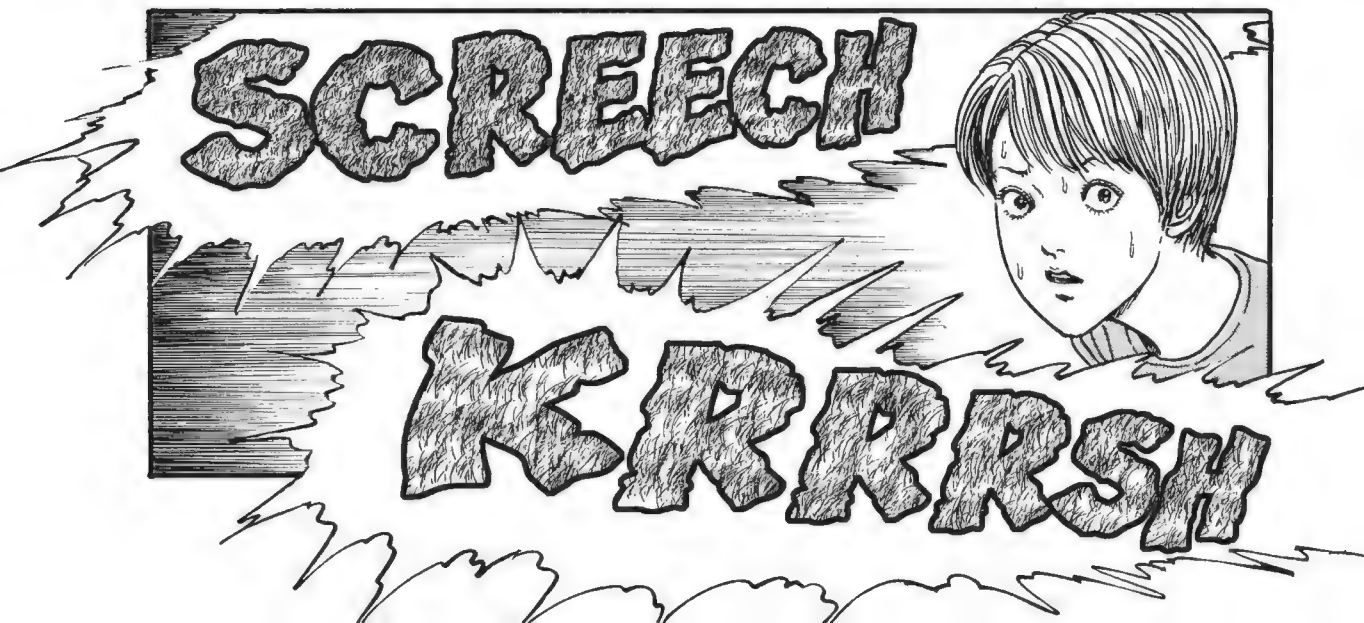
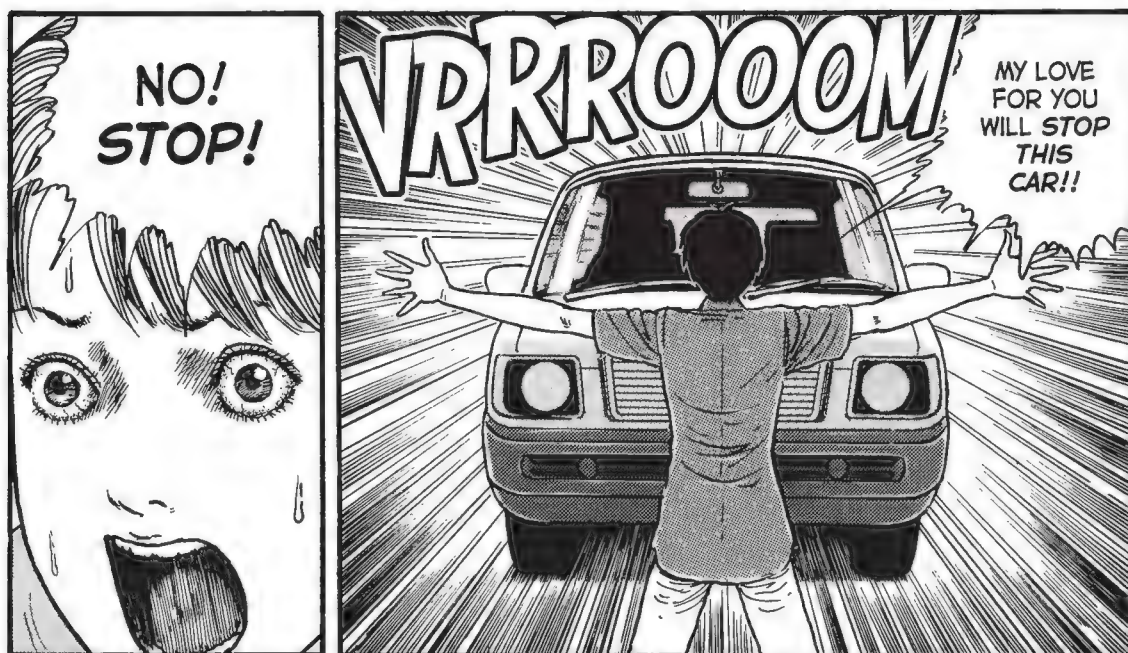
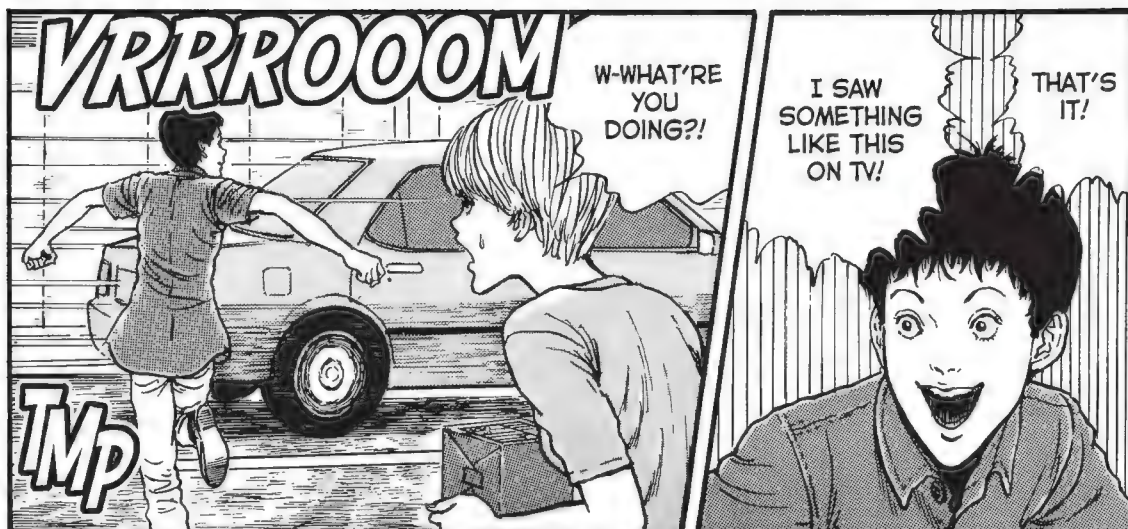
WHO
FROM
?

IT'S FOR
YOU, KIRIE.



DELIVERY
FOR KIRIE
GOSHIMA.





AIEEE!!

MITSURU?!

11





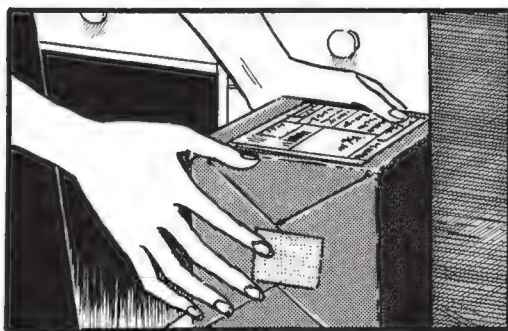
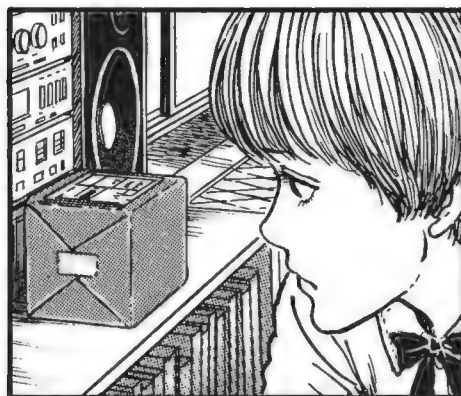
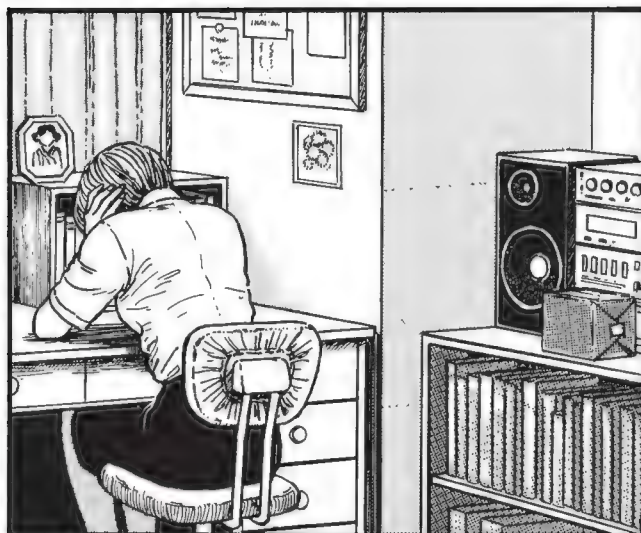
YOU'VE
GOTTA
BE KID-
DING!

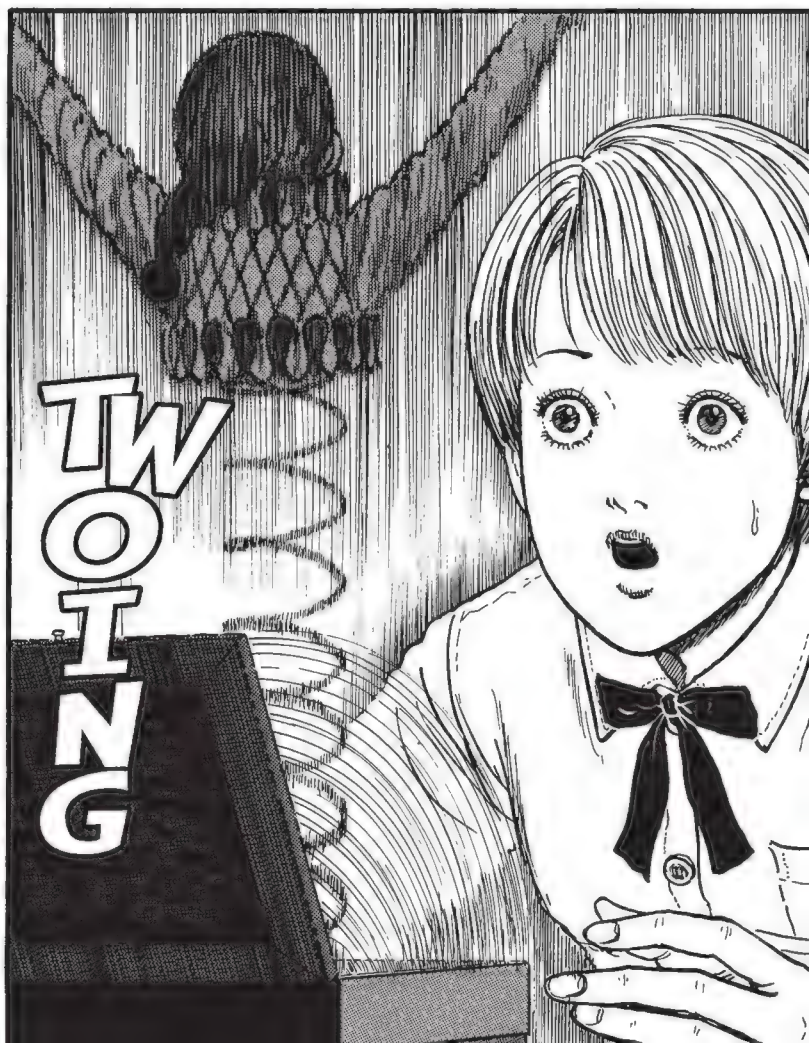
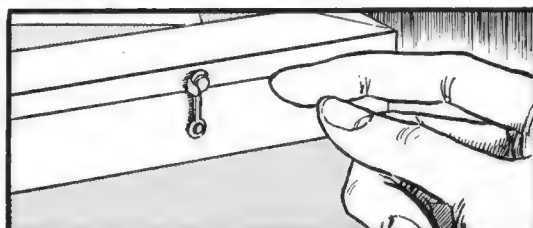
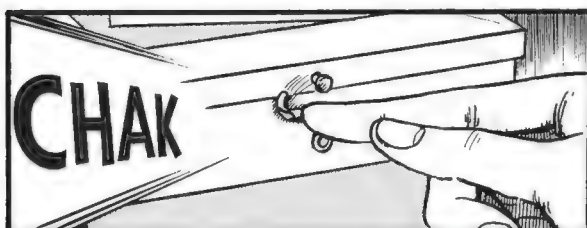
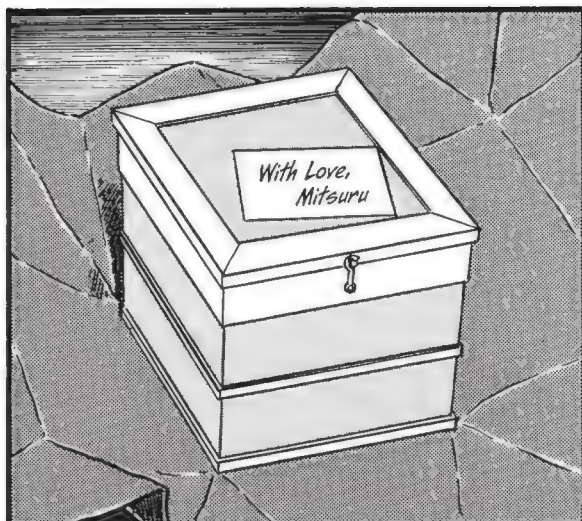
I HEARD
JACK-IN-
THE-BOX
GOT KILLED
BY A CAR!

HIS BODY
GOT
JAMMED IN
THE FRONT
WHEEL!!

THEY HAD
TO USE A
BLOWTORCH
TO EXTRACT
HIS BODY
FROM THE
CAR!

IT'S GOING
TO BE A
CLOSED-
CASKET
FUNERAL!







YOU MEAN
ABOUT
MITSURU?

SO WHAT
SHOULD I
DO...?



WHAT'S
WRONG,
KIRIE?
YOU
SOUND
KINDA
DOWN.



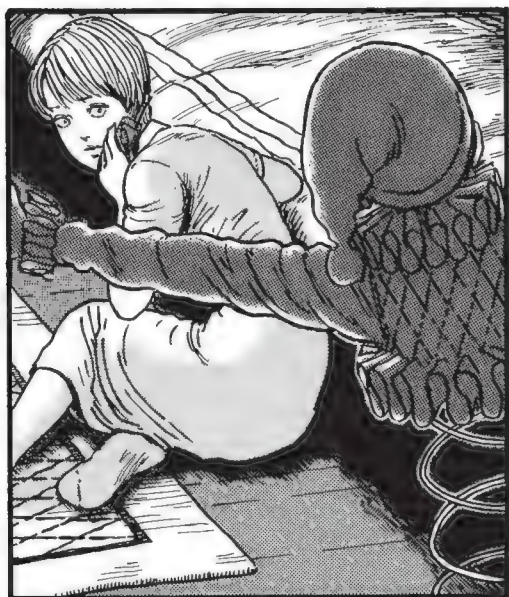
HELLO,
SHUICHI?

IT'S
ME,
KIRIE...



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT.
IT WASN'T
YOUR
FAULT.

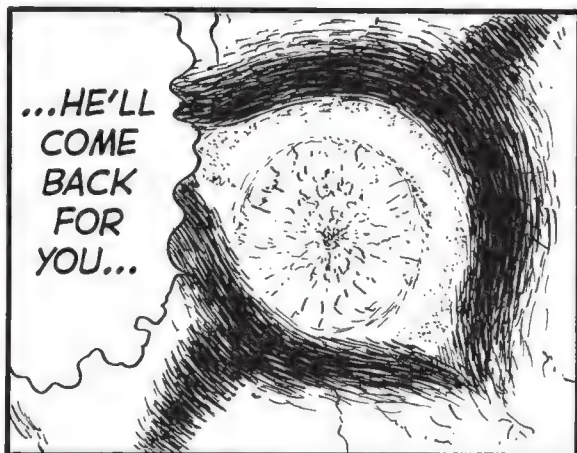
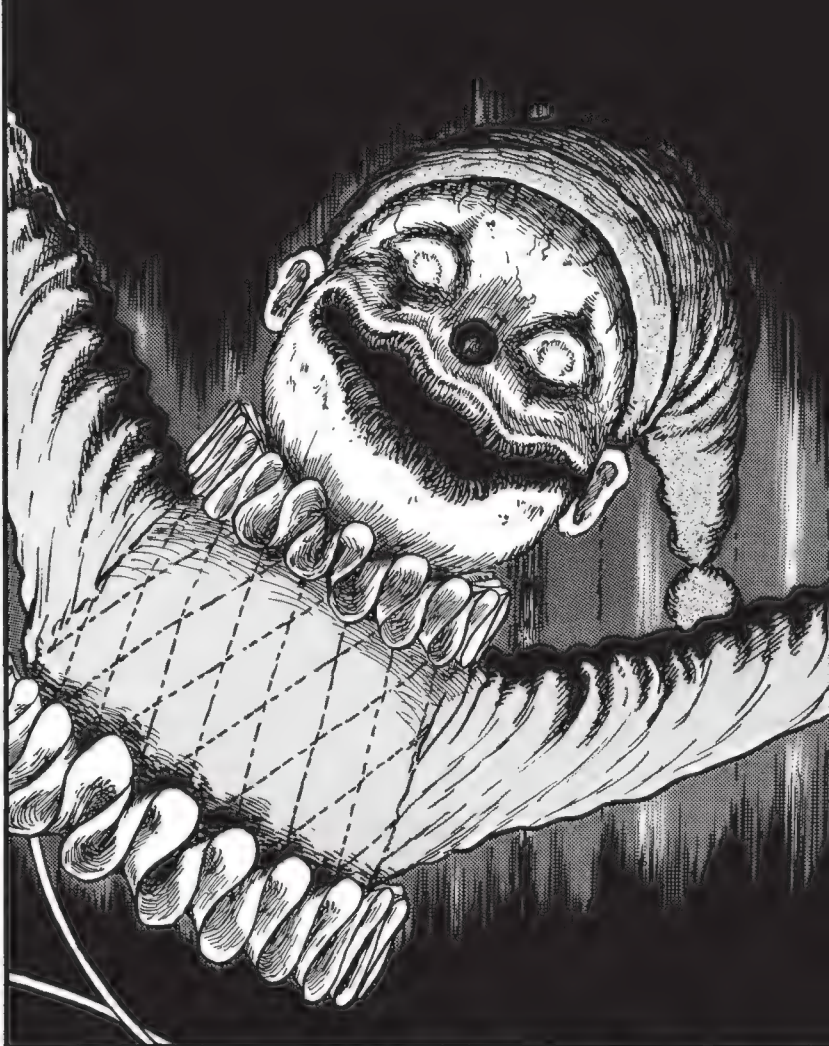
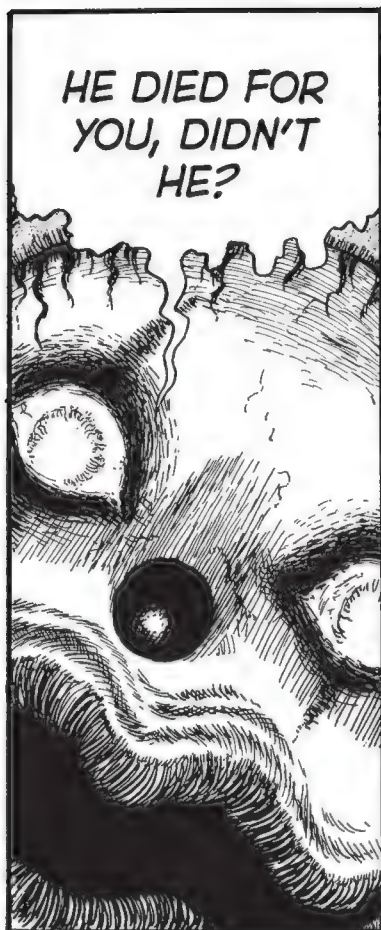
BUT...

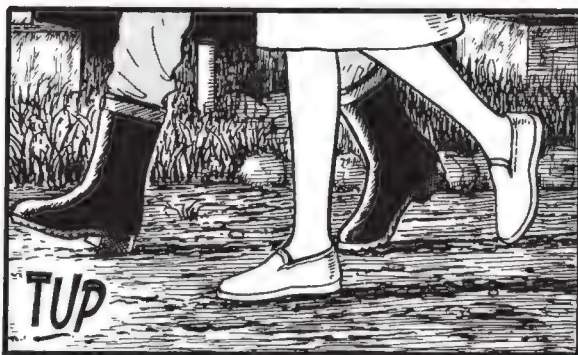


IT IS
YOUR
FAULT
...



?!





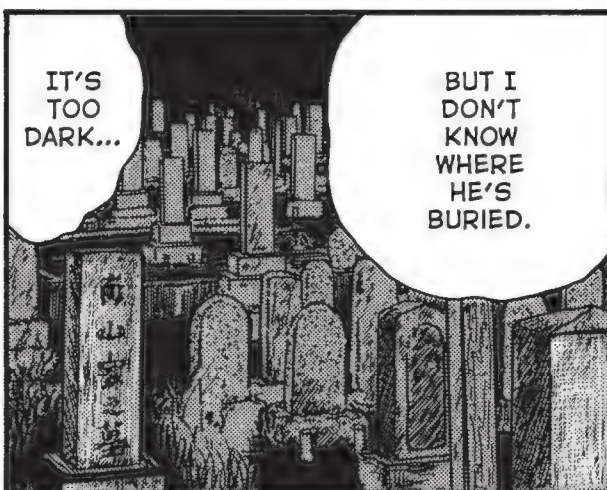
17





THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE WON'T GET CAUGHT.

WE CAN'T DIG HIM UP IN DAY-LIGHT.



IT'S TOO DARK...

BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE'S BURIED.



I'M GONNA HAMMER THIS STAKE INTO HIS HEART SO HE WON'T COME BACK TO LIFE!

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS ??



... WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

BUT, UH...



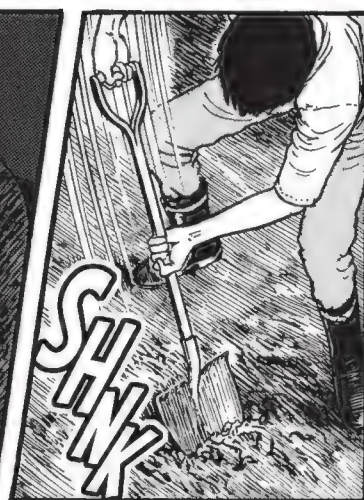
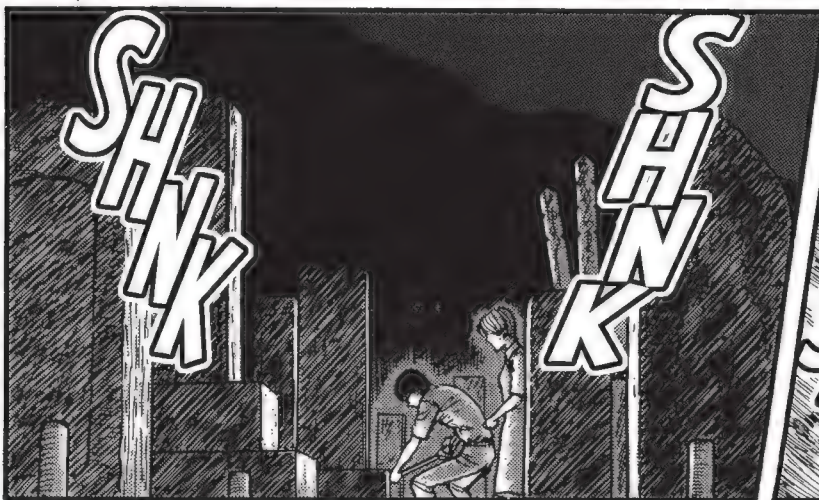
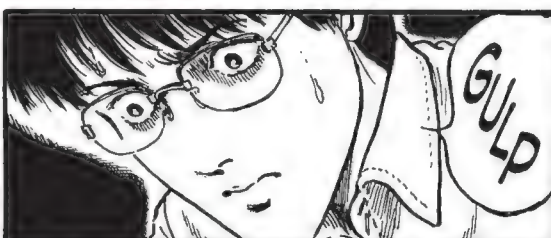
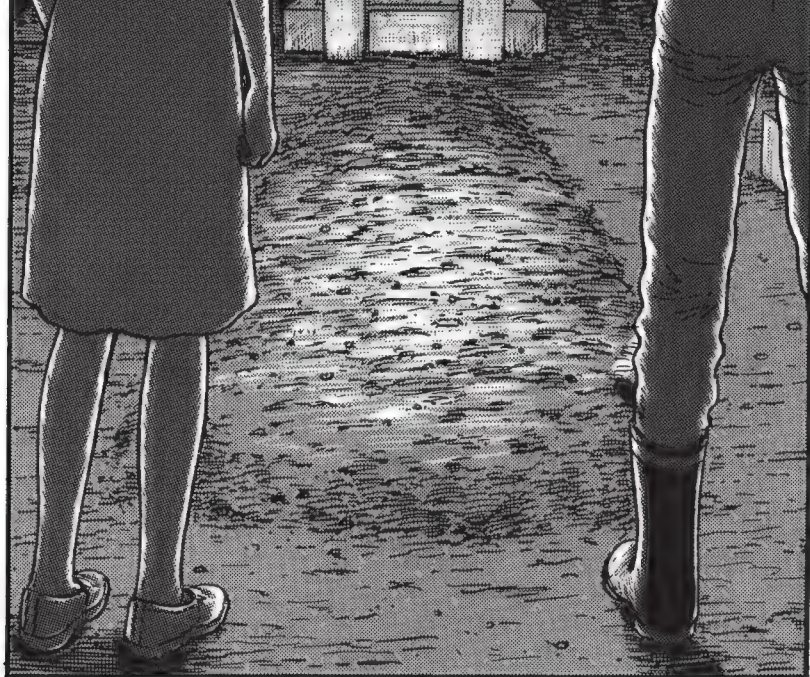
NOTHING'S UNBELIEVABLE IN THIS TOWN!!

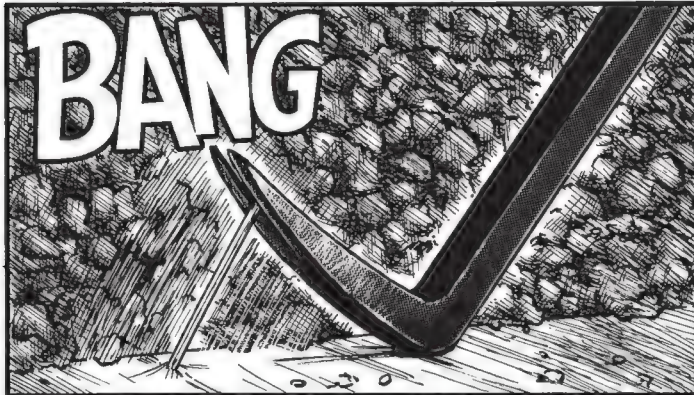
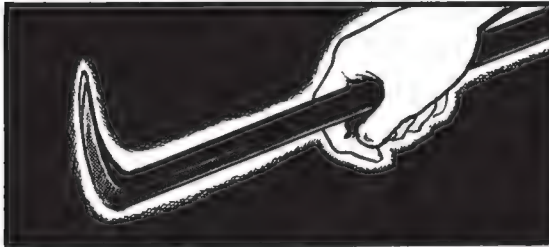
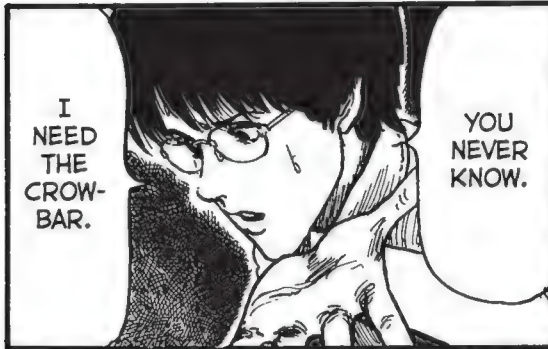


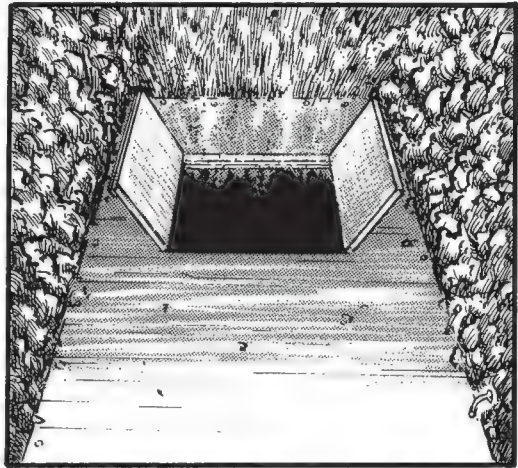
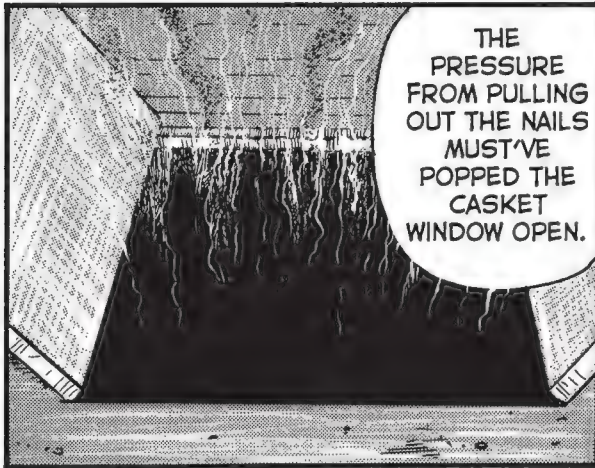
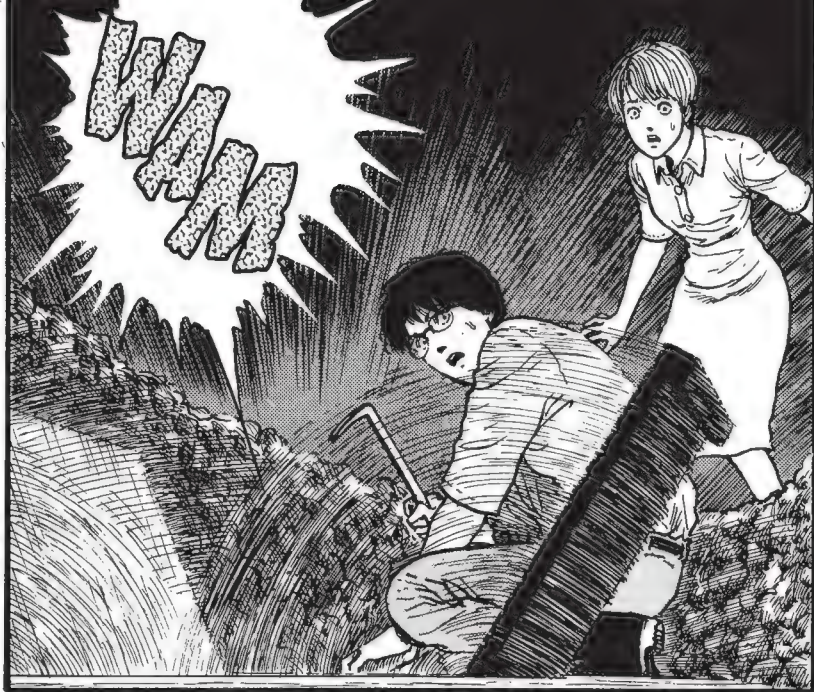
LOOK, WE'RE HERE BECAUSE WE BELIEVE A **TOY CLOWN** TALKED IN THE FIRST PLACE!

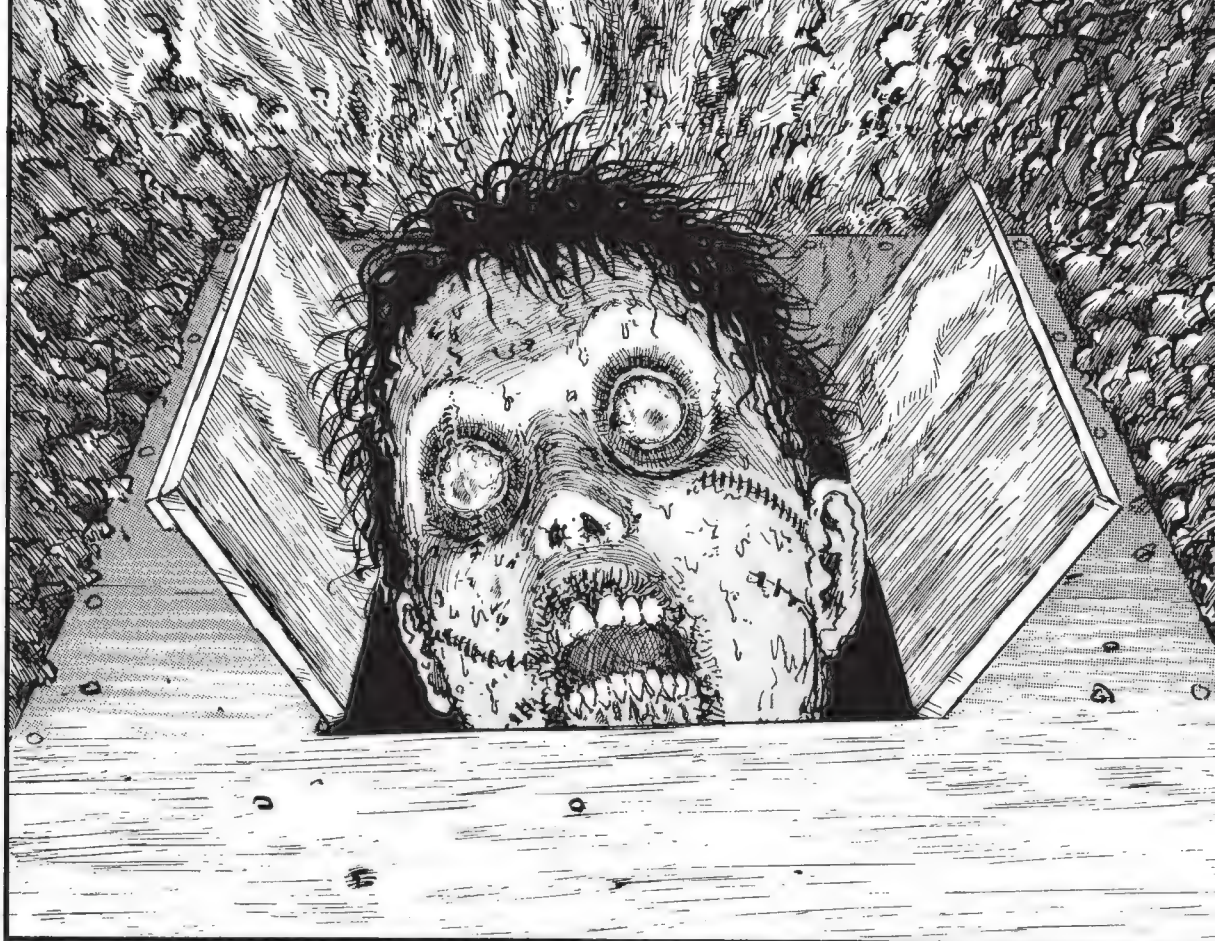
SO YOU BELIEVE WHAT THAT CLOWN SAID?

I DON'T THINK HE'S A VAMPIRE...

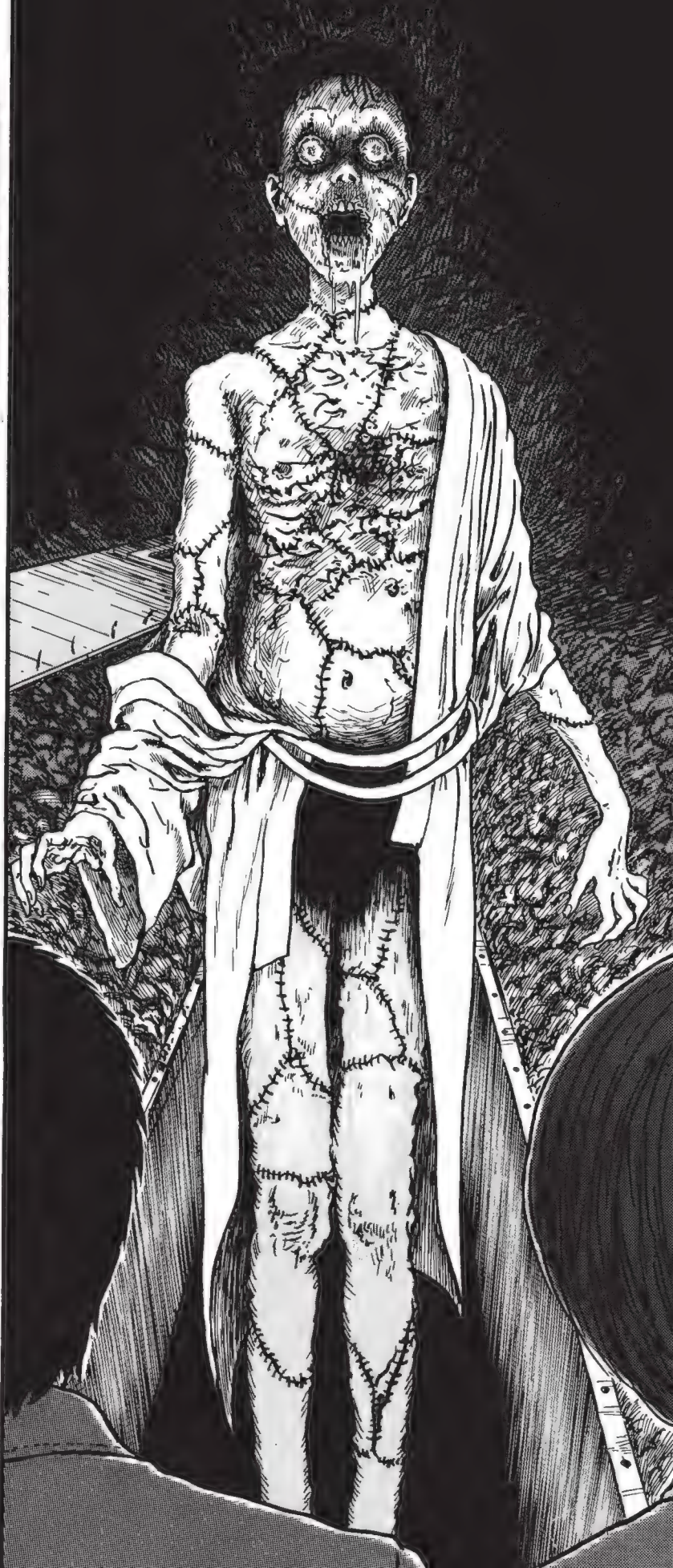


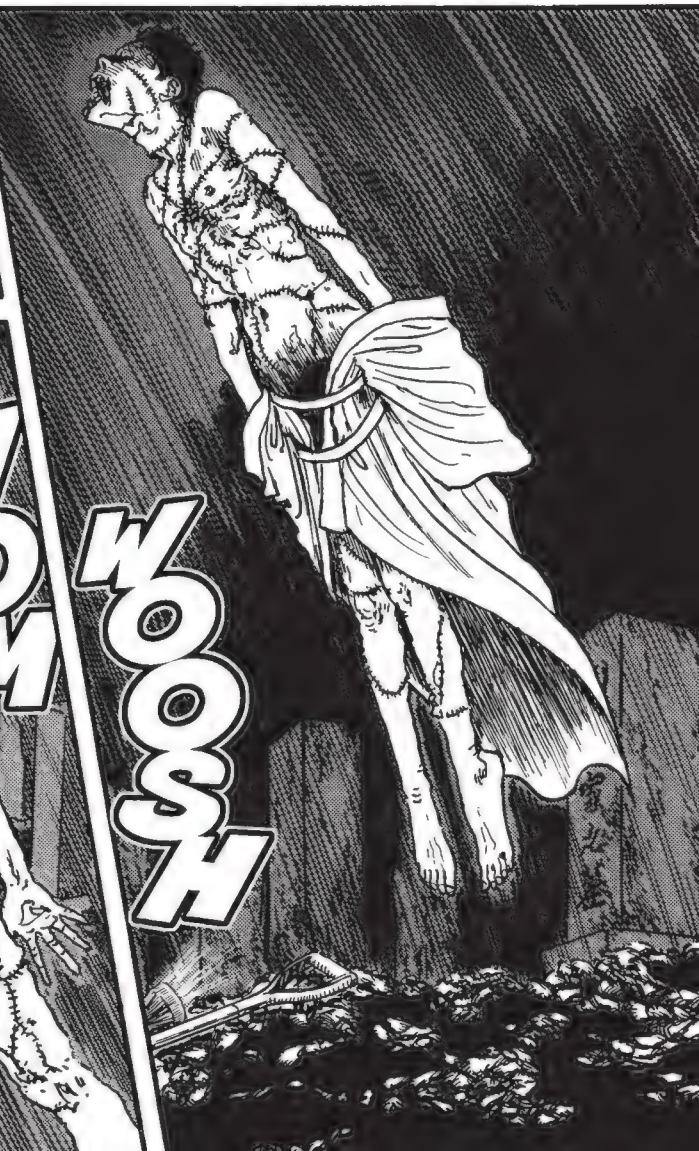


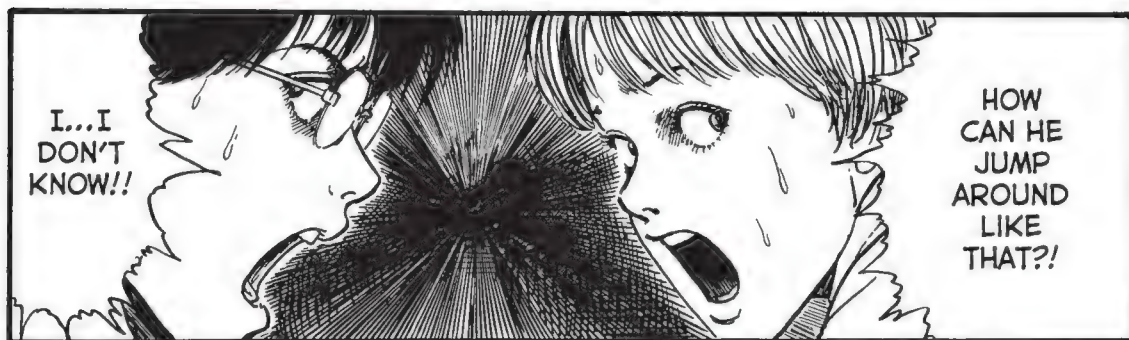
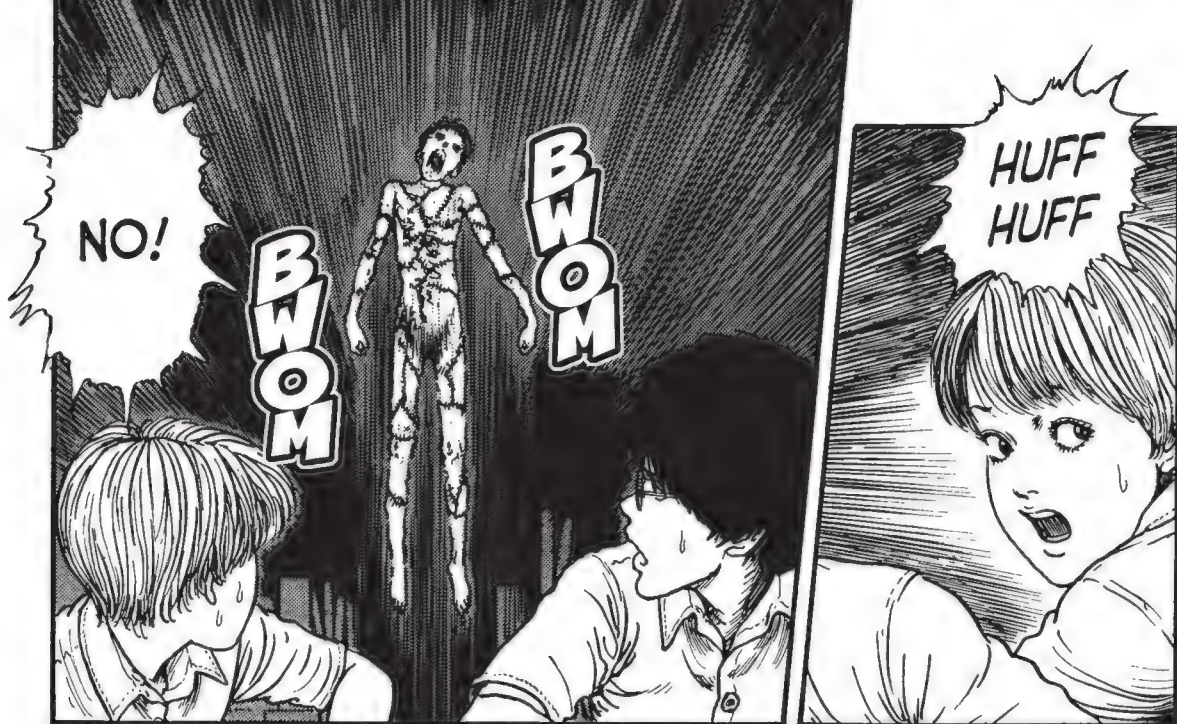


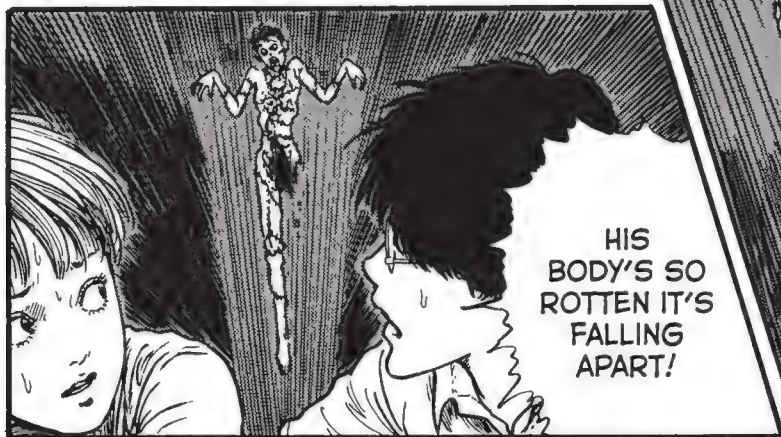
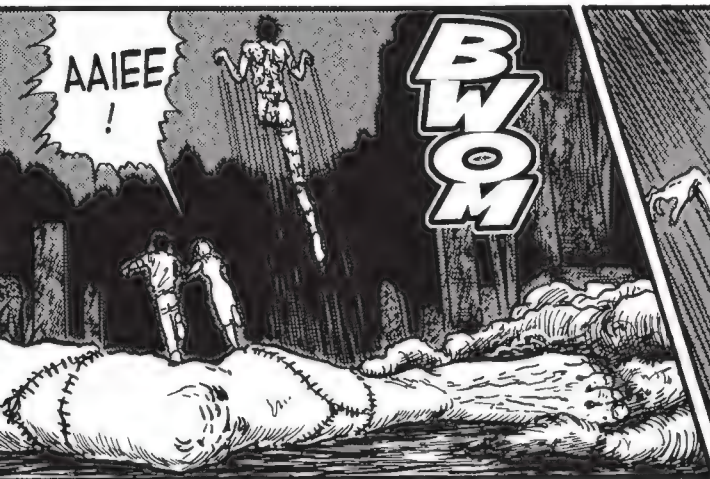


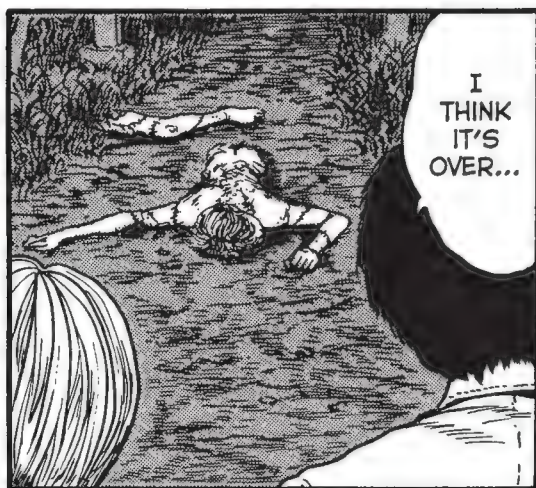
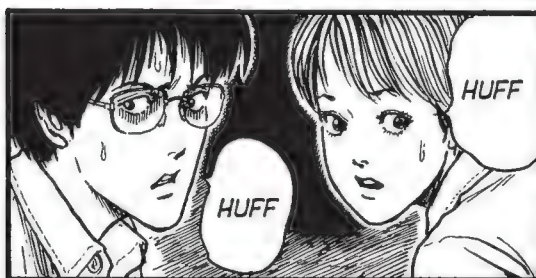
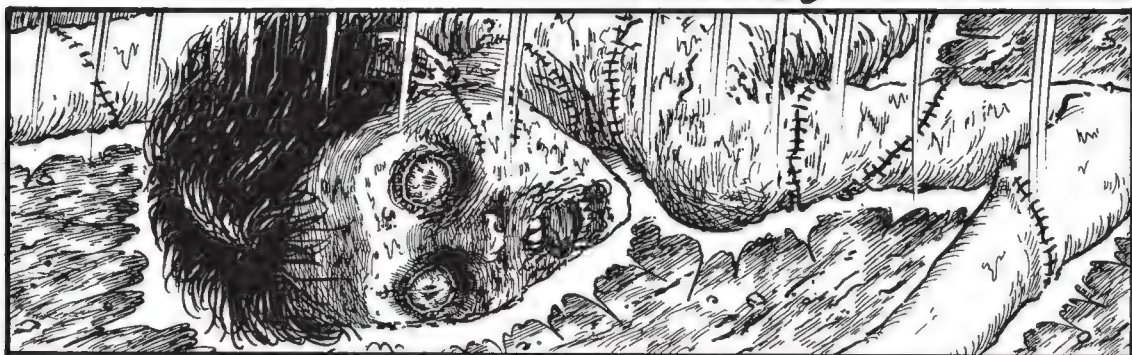
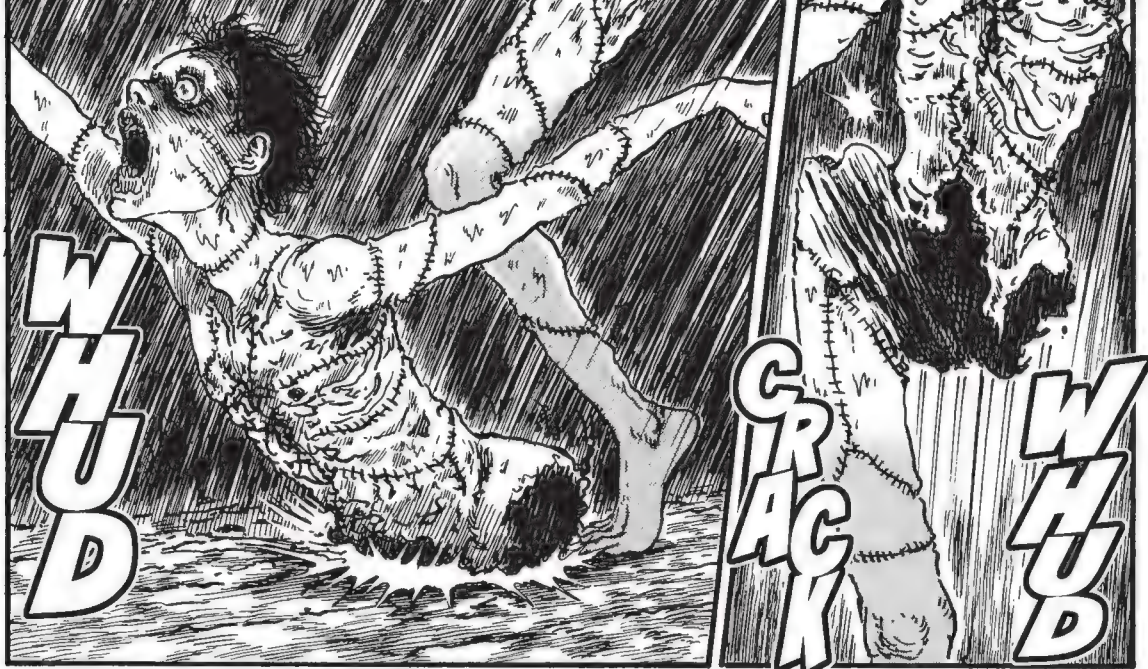


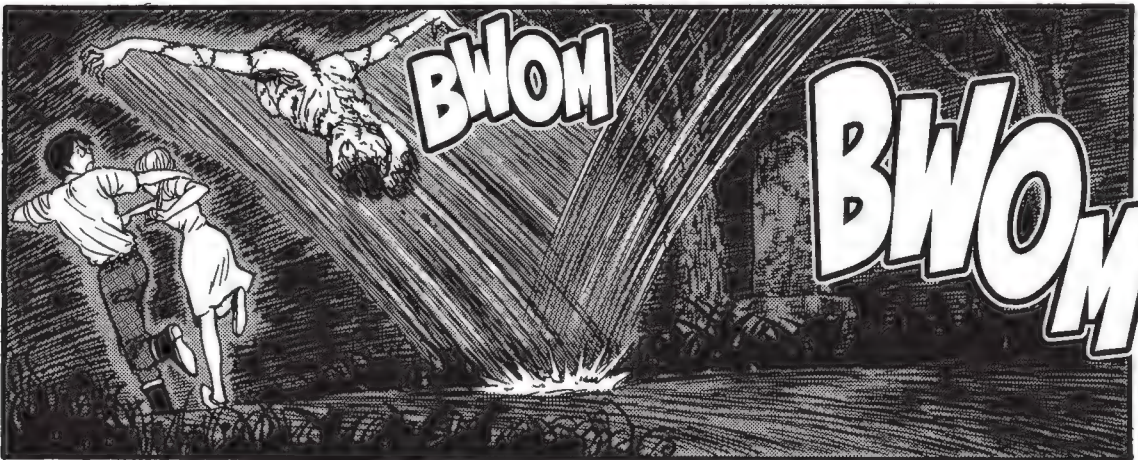


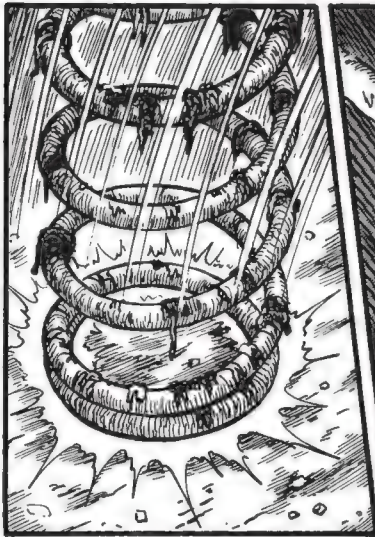
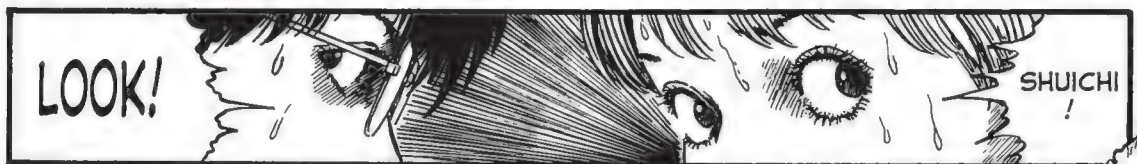






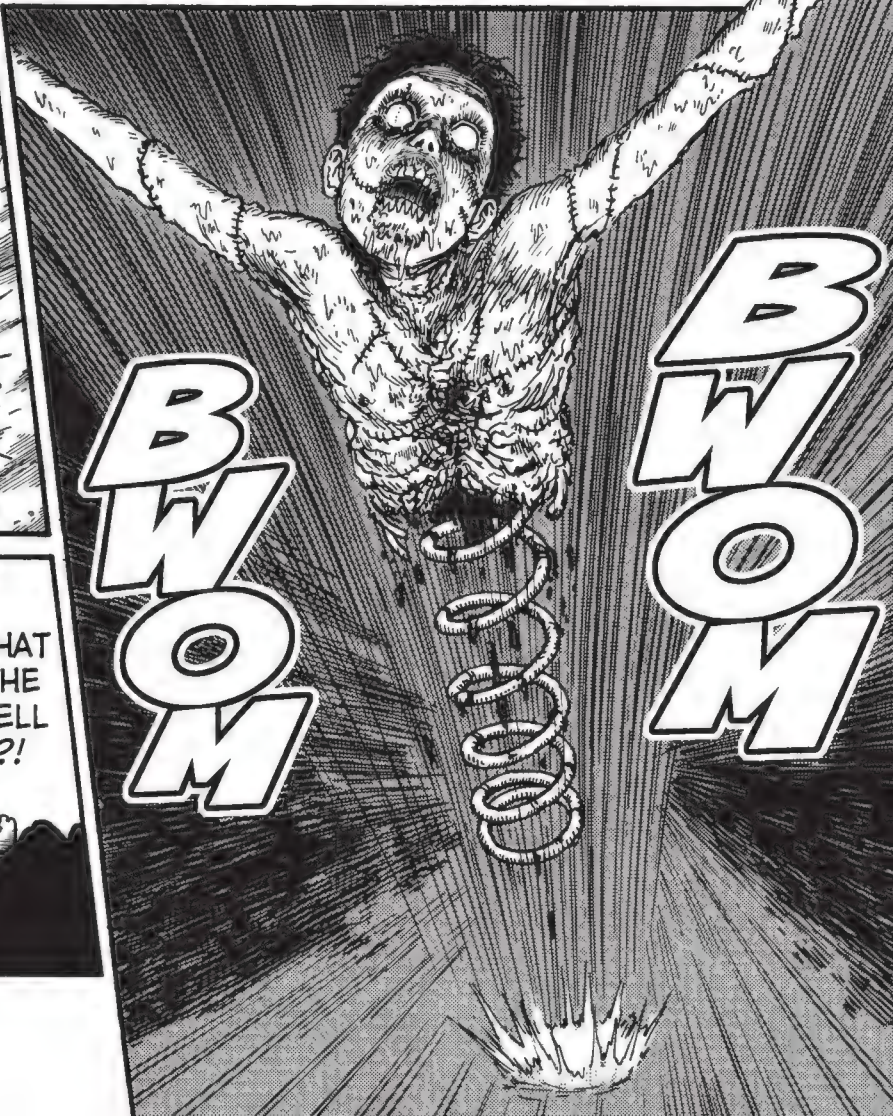


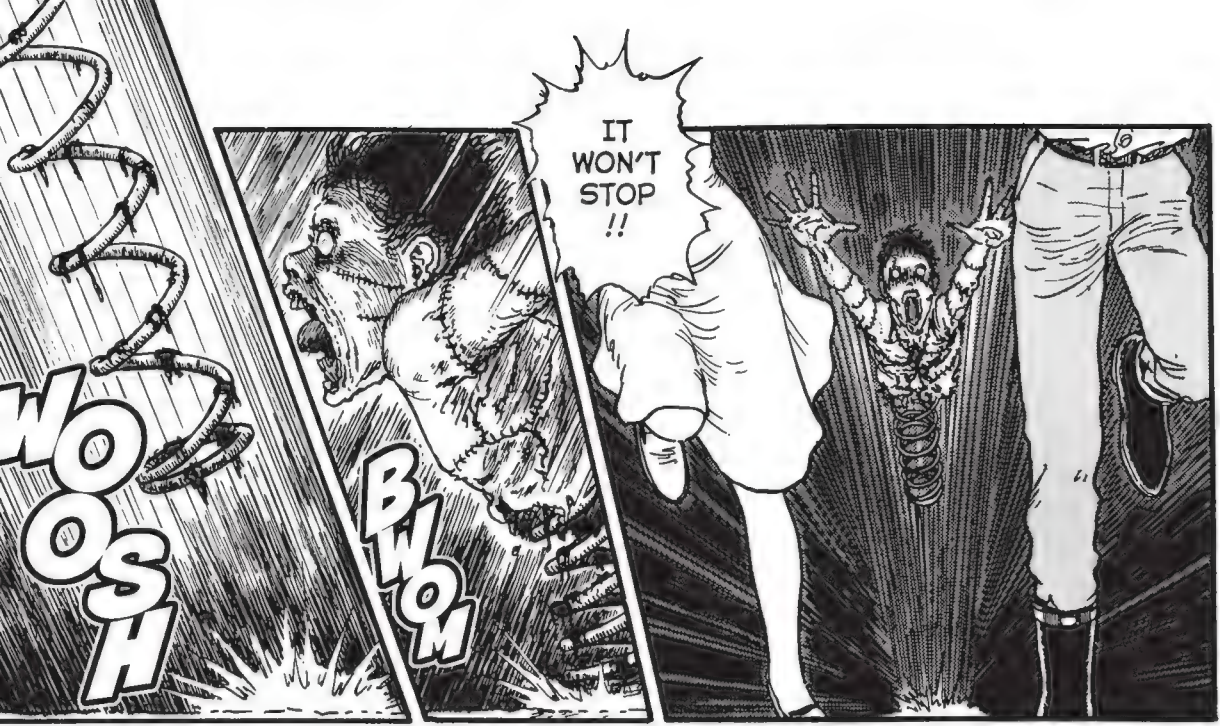


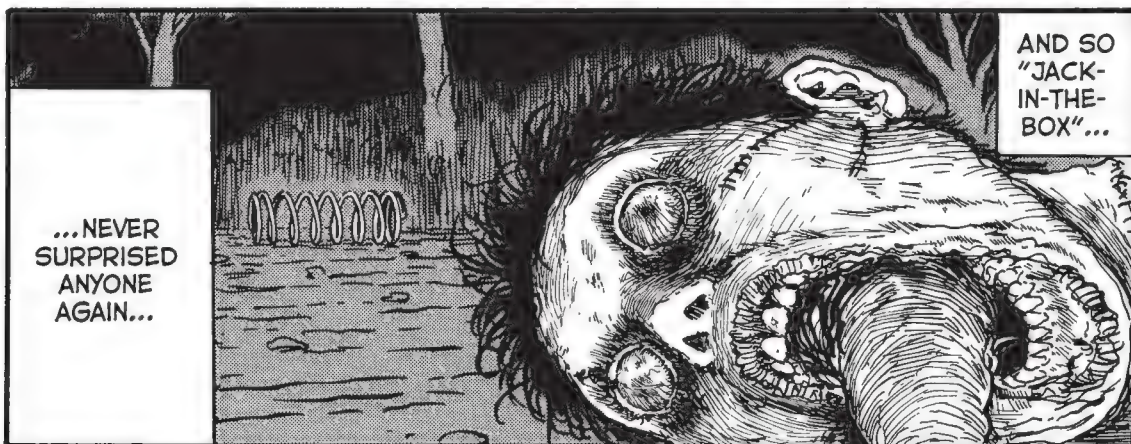
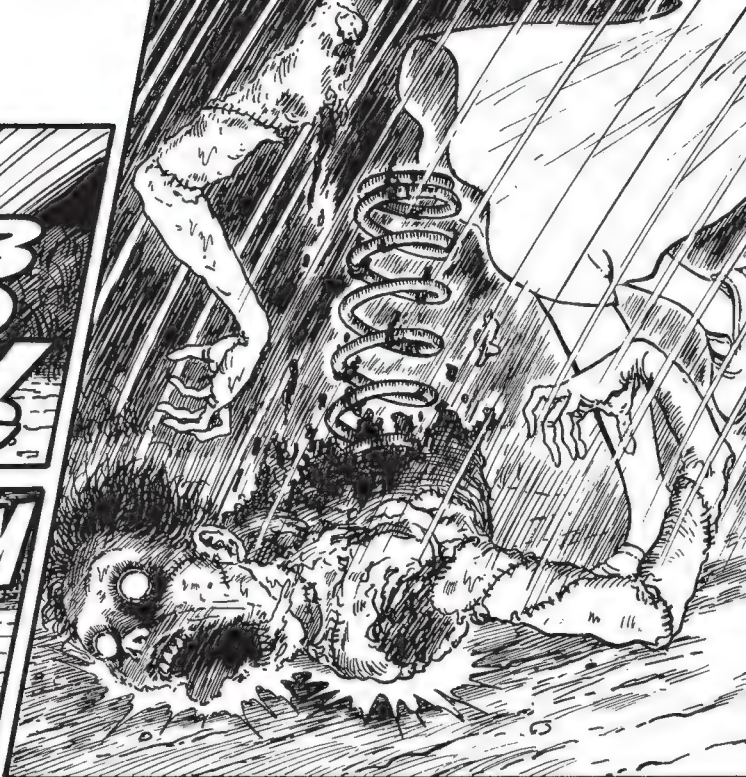
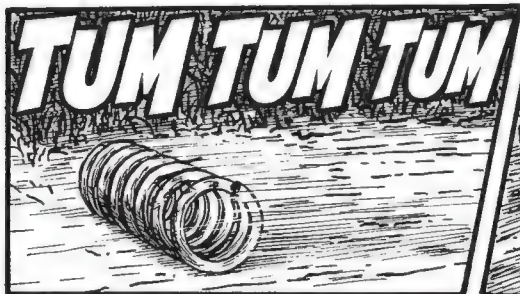


HIS
SPINE'S
BE-
COME
A
SPRING
!

WHAT
THE
HELL
?!





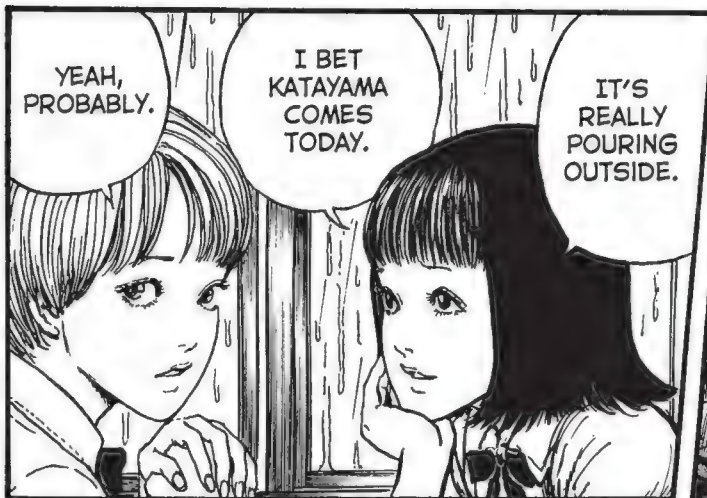
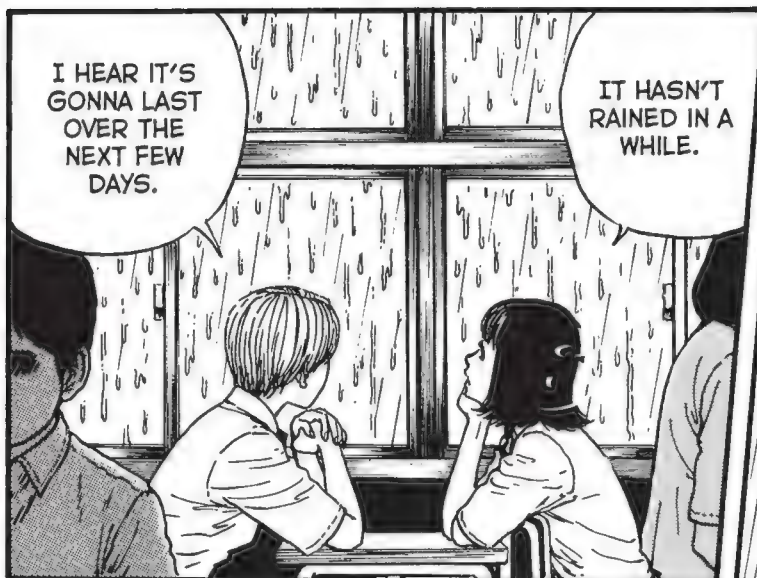


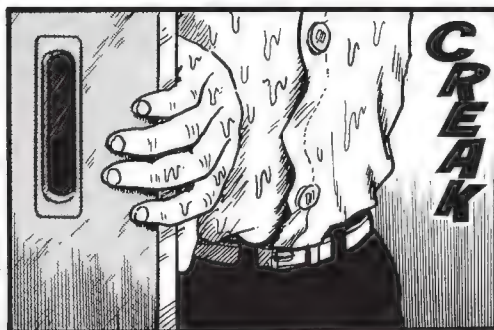
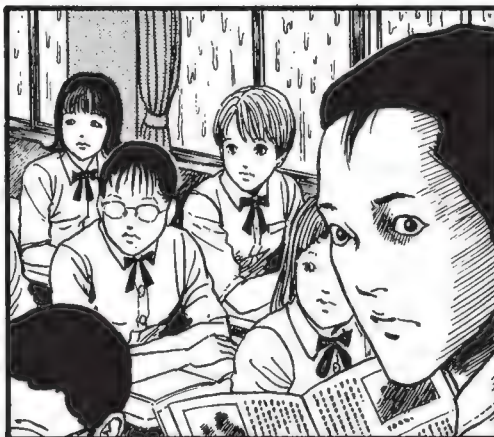
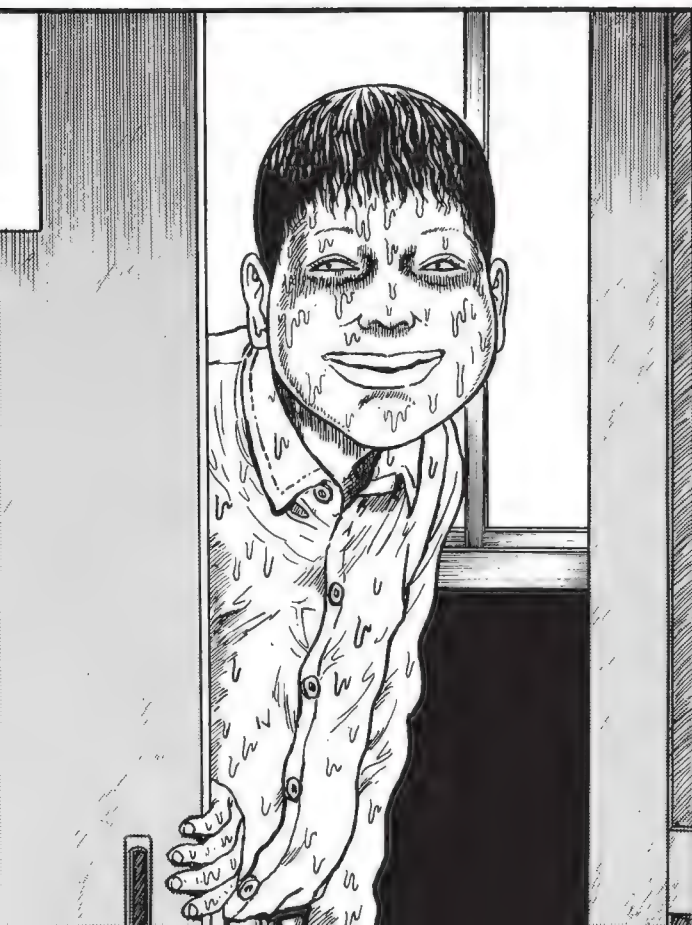
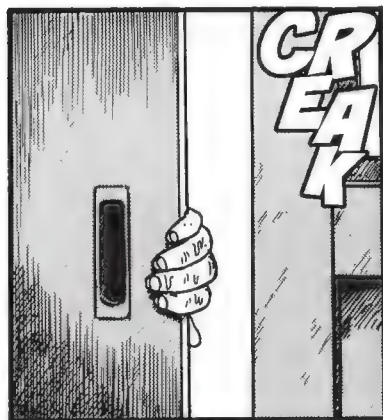
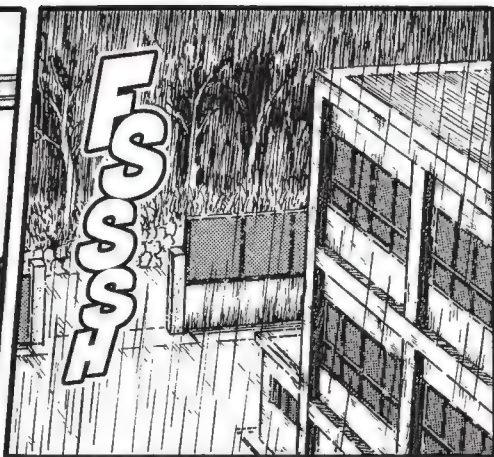
CHAPTER

8

THE
SNAKE









I GOT UP
EARLY...
BUT IT
TOOK A
WHILE...



...
SORRY
I'M
LATE.

MR.
YOKOTA...

DO YOU
HAVE ANY
IDEA WHAT
TIME IT IS,
KATAYAMA?



THAT'S
ENOUGH,
TSUMURA!

**WA
HA
HA!**



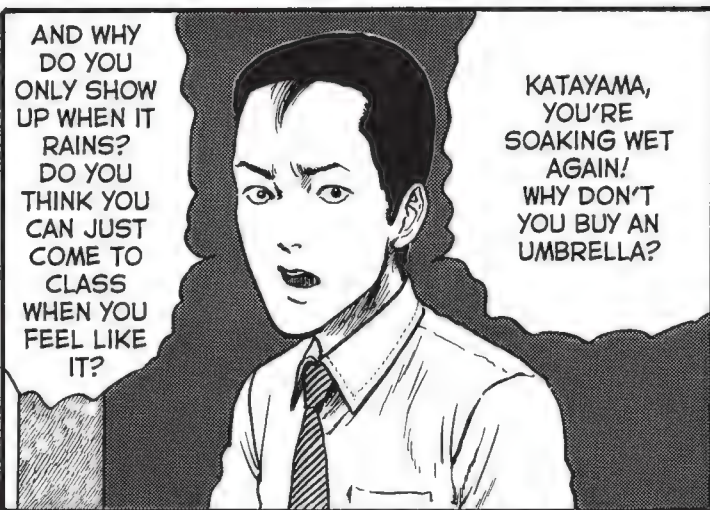
IT TAKES HIM
TEN TIMES AS
LONG AS A
NORMAL
PERSON TO
GET ANY-
WHERE!

KATAYAMA'S
THE ULTIMATE
SLOWPOKE,
SIR!



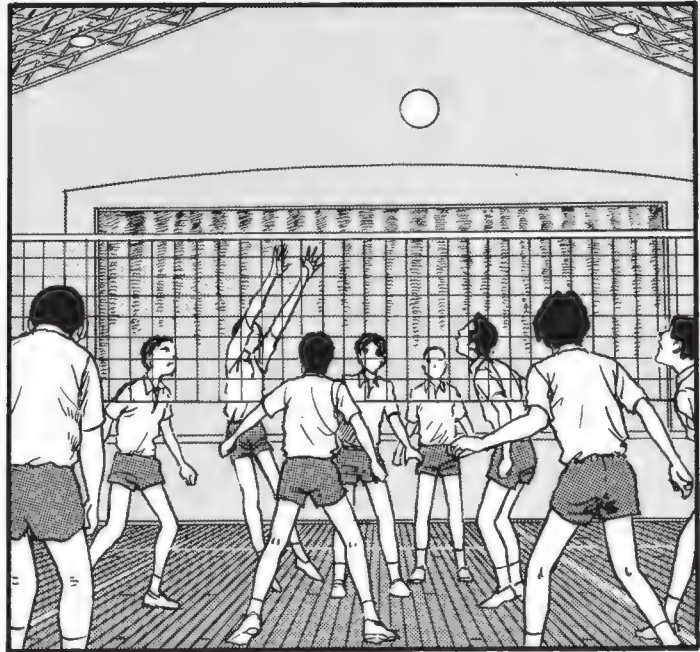
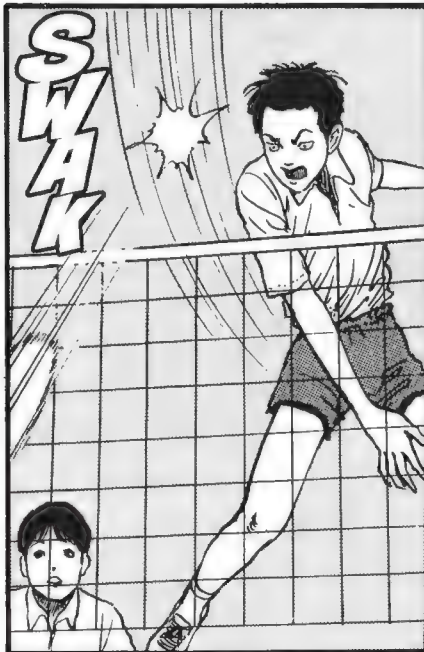
UH...

UM...



AND WHY
DO YOU
ONLY SHOW
UP WHEN IT
RAINS?
DO YOU
THINK YOU
CAN JUST
COME TO
CLASS
WHEN YOU
FEEL LIKE
IT?

KATAYAMA,
YOU'RE
SOAKING WET
AGAIN!
WHY DON'T
YOU BUY AN
UMBRELLA?



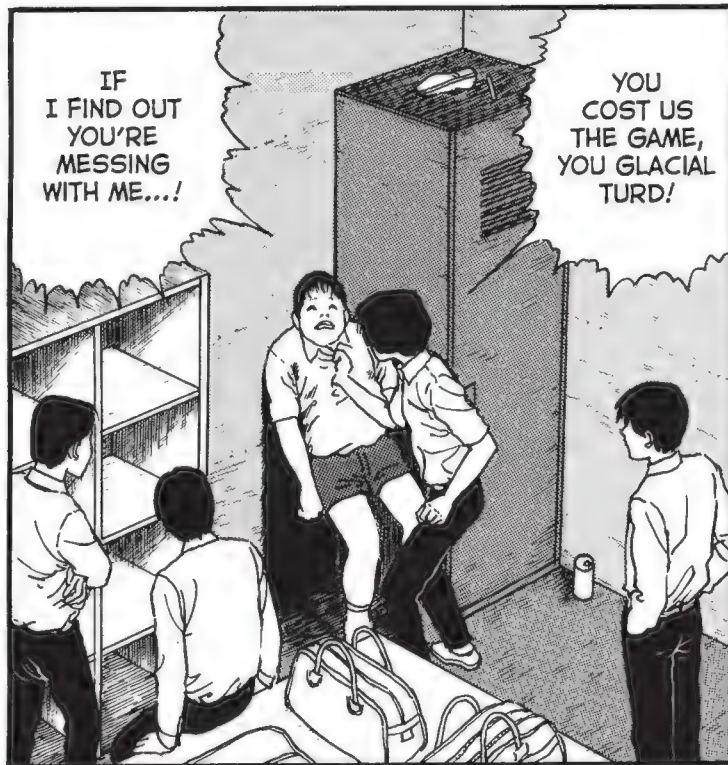


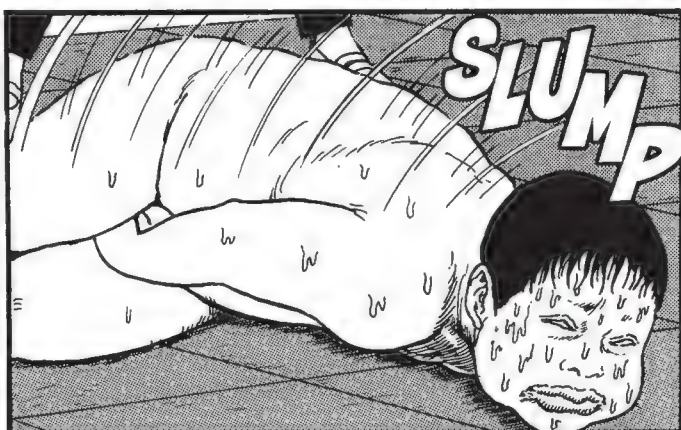
HOLY
CRIPES,
SLOW-
ASS!

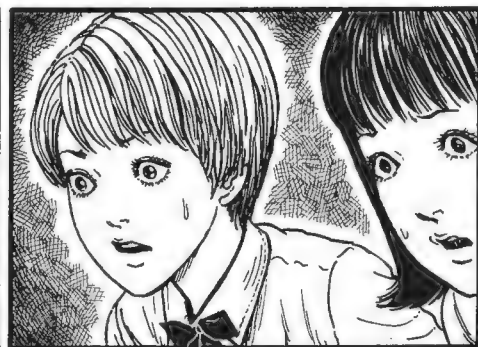
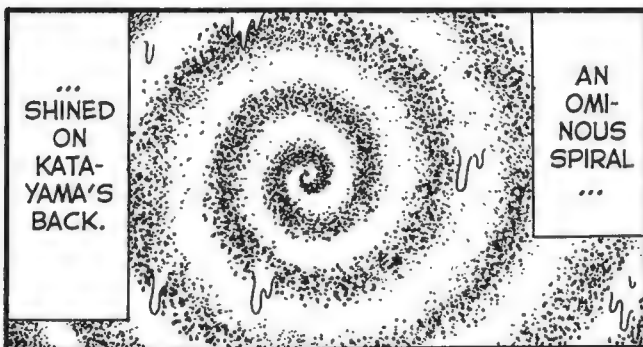


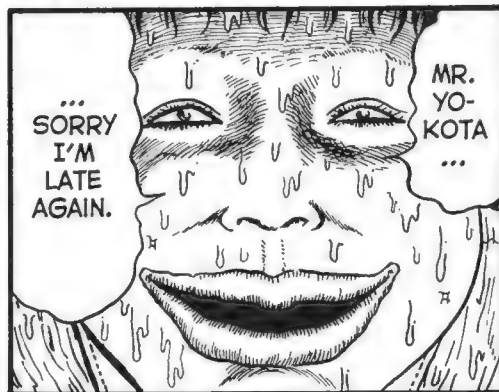
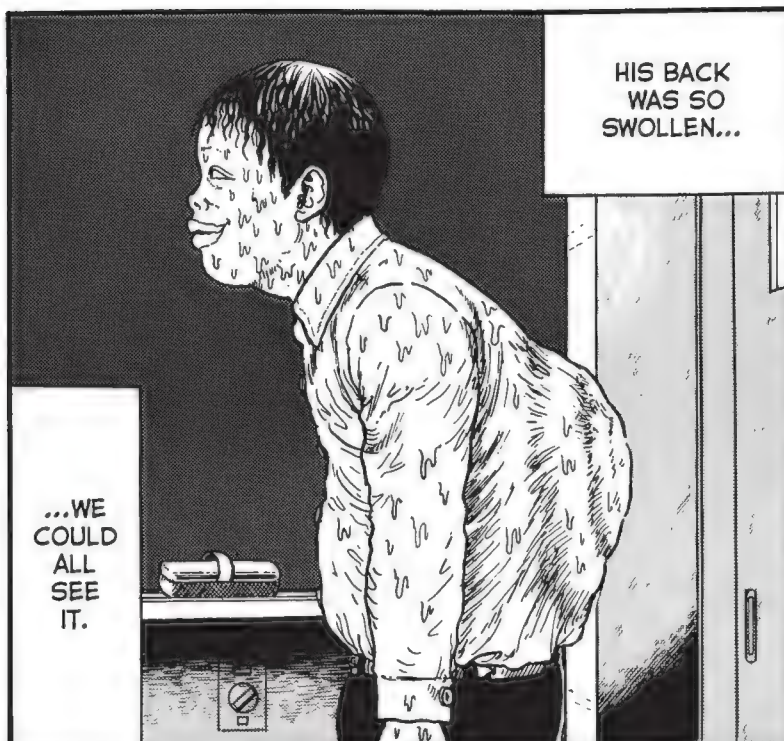
IF
I FIND OUT
YOU'RE
MESSING
WITH ME...!

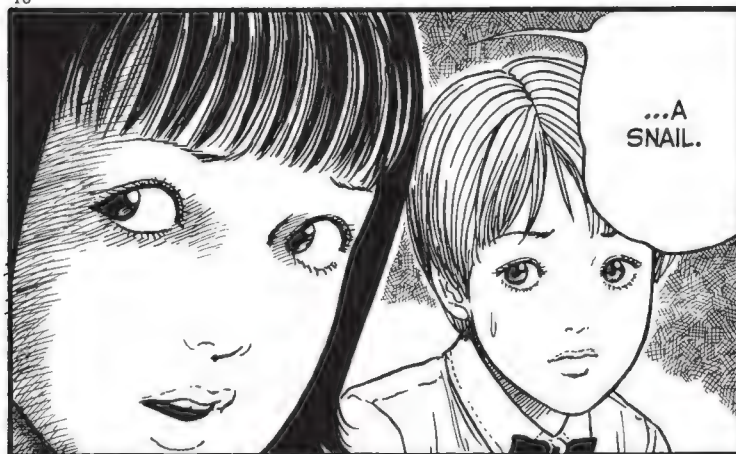
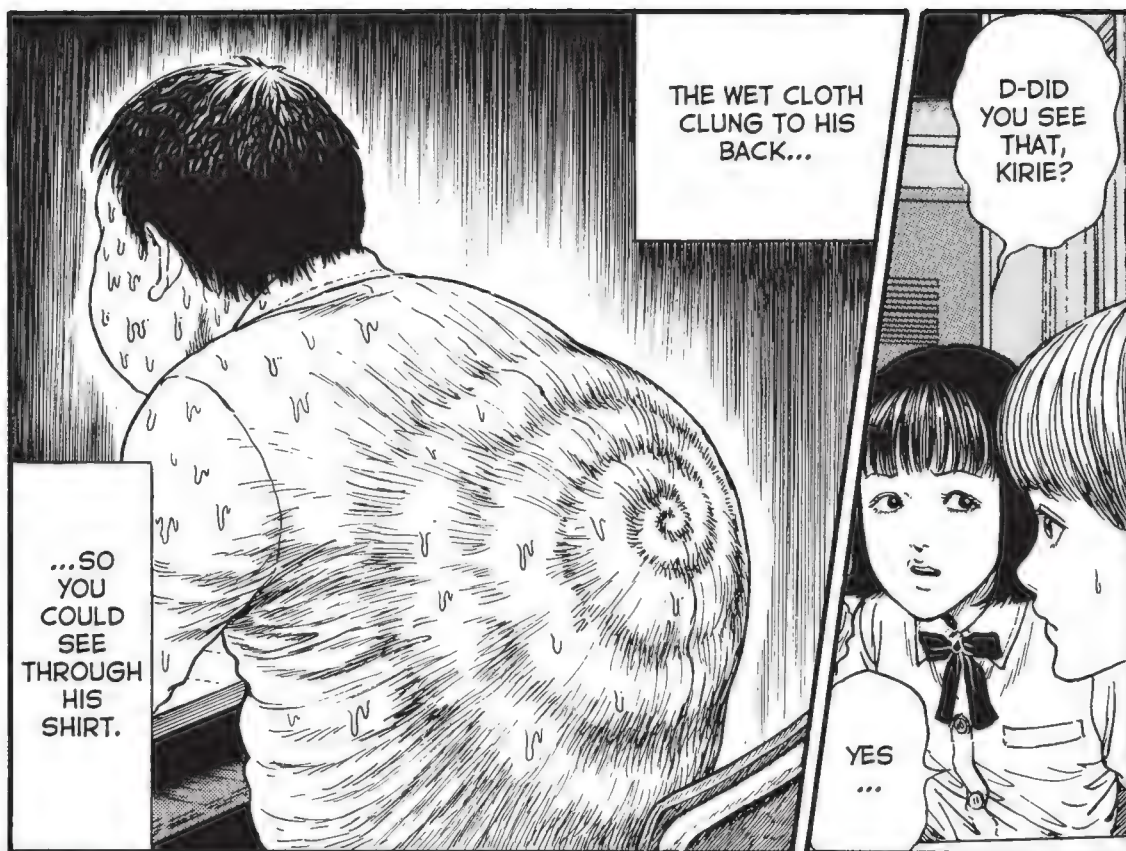
YOU
COST US
THE GAME,
YOU GLACIAL
TURD!

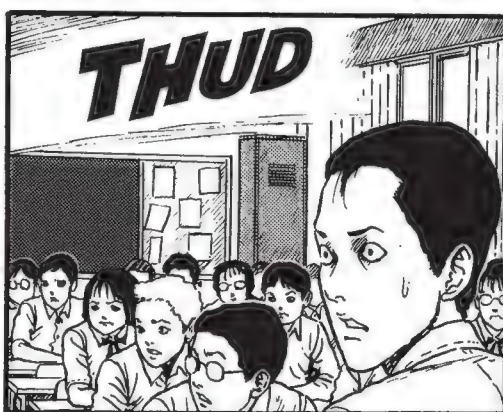
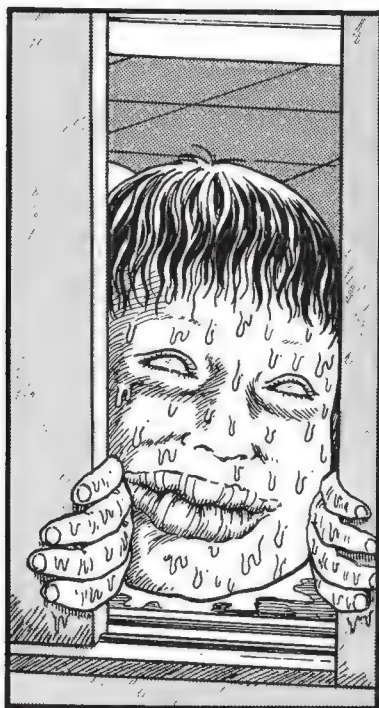
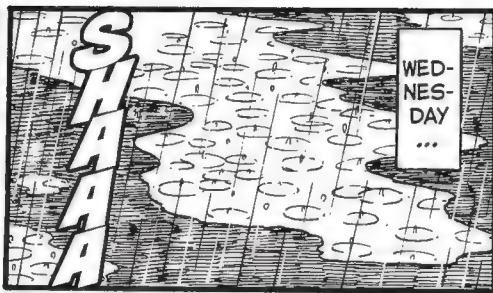




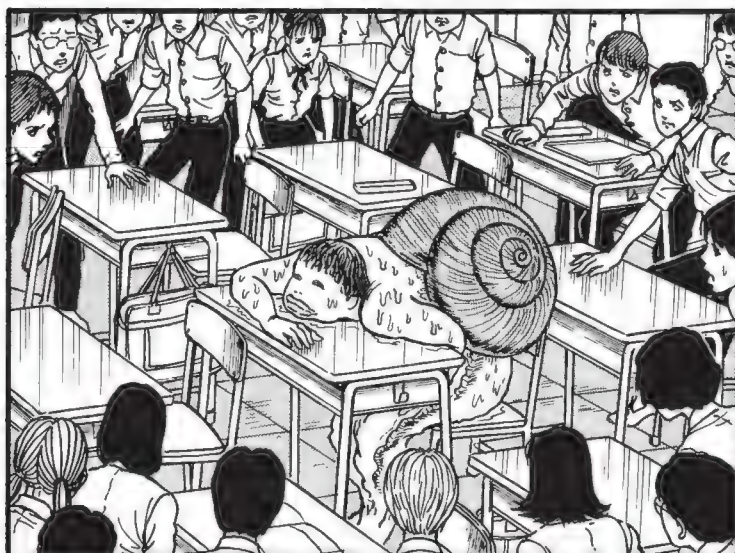
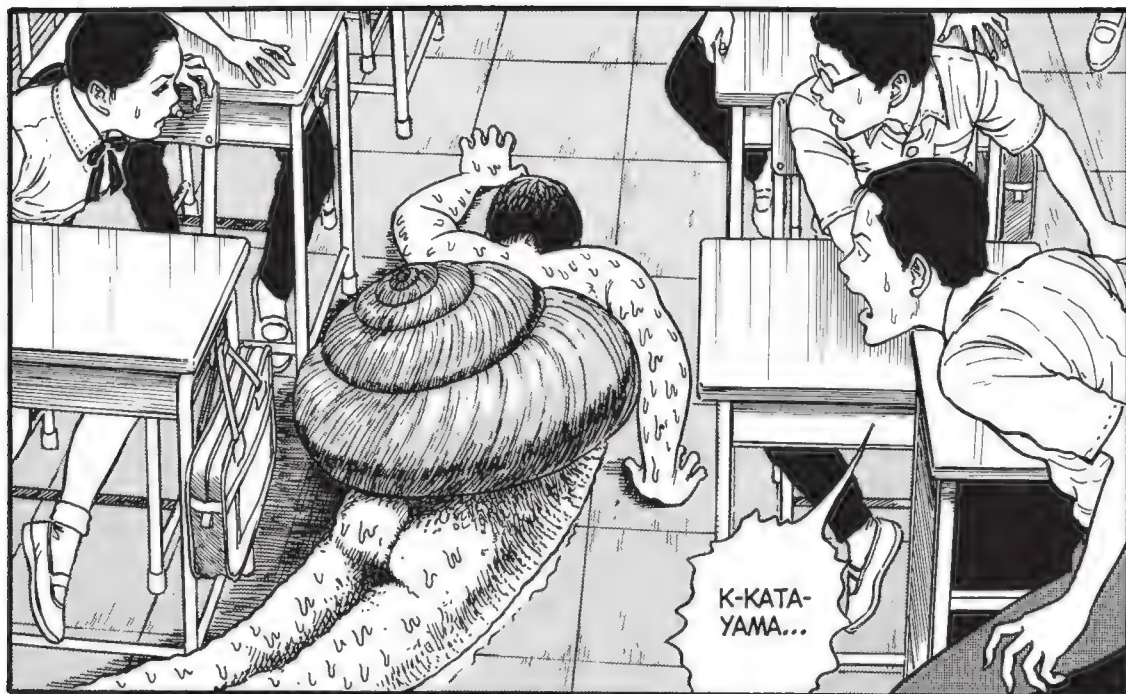


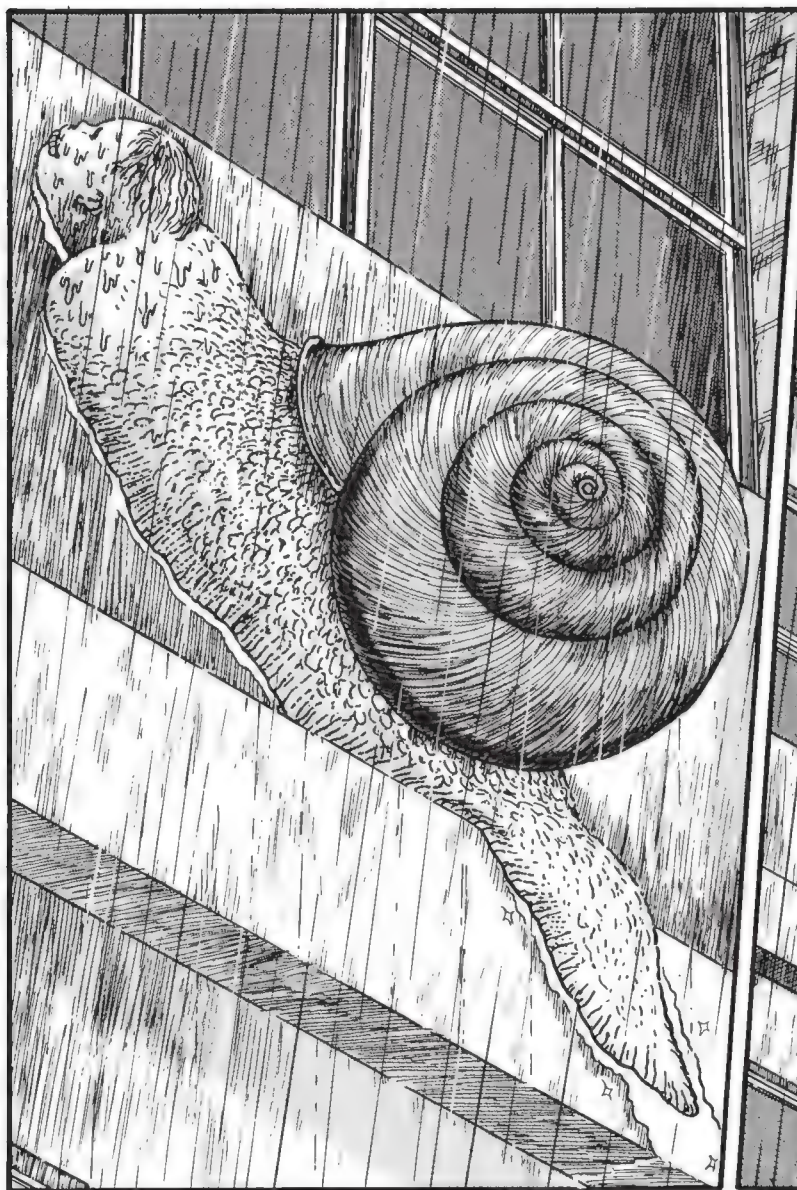
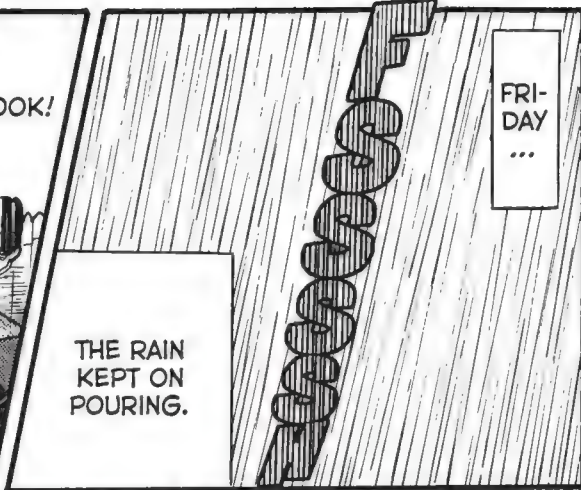


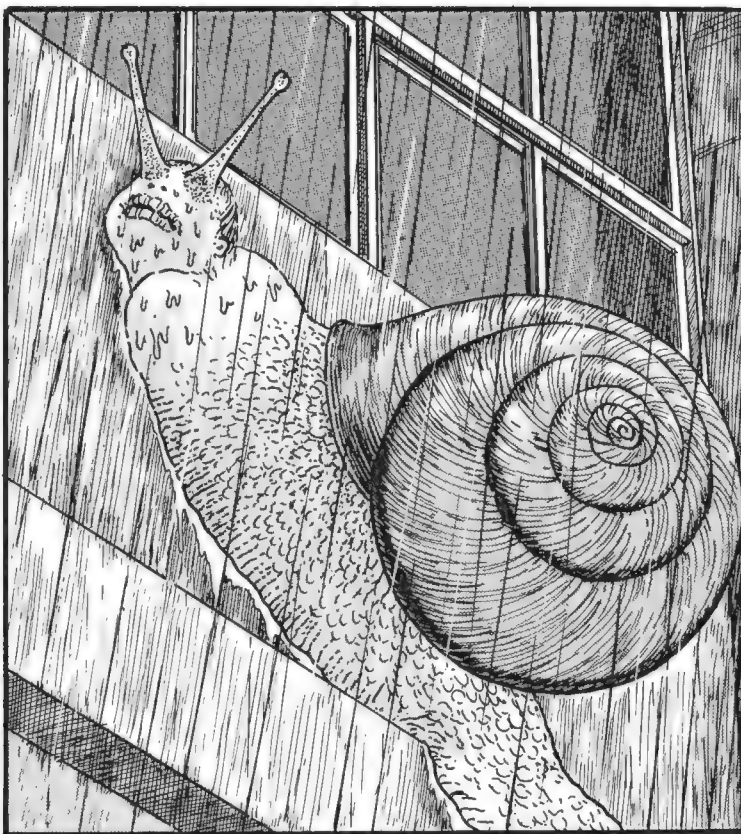
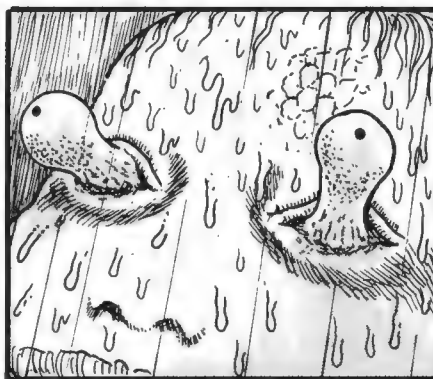














LOOK
AT THAT
TRAIL HE'S
LEAVING
BEHIND.



THEY
CALLED
THIS
MORNING.
HE HASN'T
BEEN HOME
FOR
SEVERAL
DAYS.

CONTACT
HIS
PARENTS.

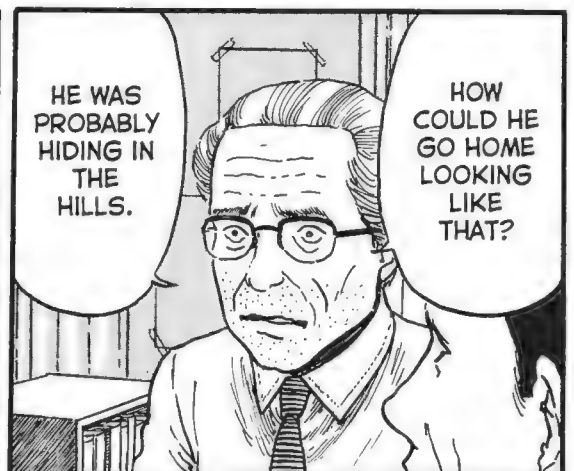


SOMETHING
MUST BE
DONE.



THEY
SHOULD
BE HERE
SOON.

WE ASKED
HIS
PARENTS
TO COME
GET HIM.



HE WAS
PROBABLY
HIDING IN
THE
HILLS.

HOW
COULD HE
GO HOME
LOOKING
LIKE
THAT?



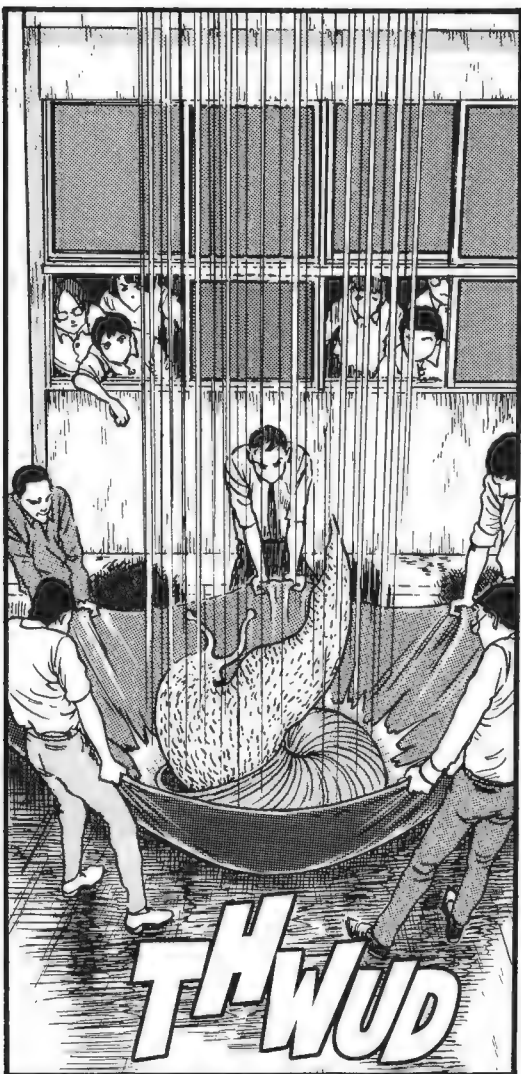
WE'RE
READY
DOWN
HERE.

HIS FAMILY
REFUSED
TO TAKE
HIM HOME.

WE'RE
GOING
HOME!

IS THIS
SOME
SICK
JOKE?

BUT,
BUT
...



THWUD

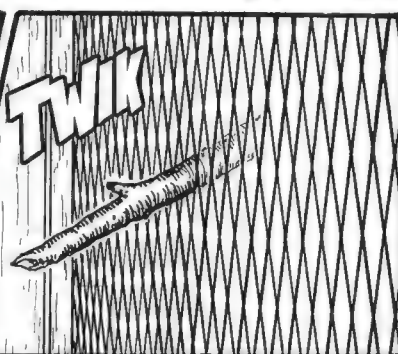
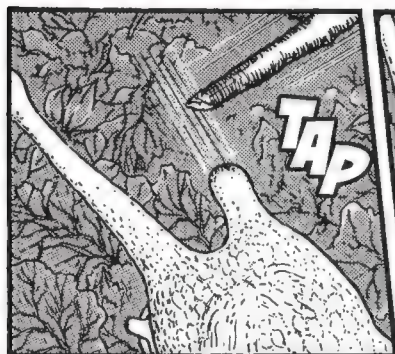


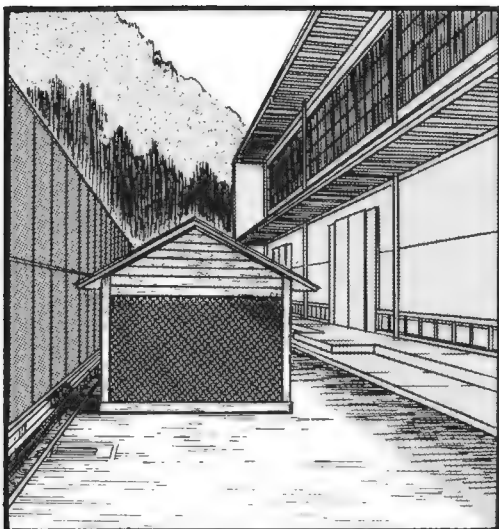
**BAP
BAP**



**SKL
UK**

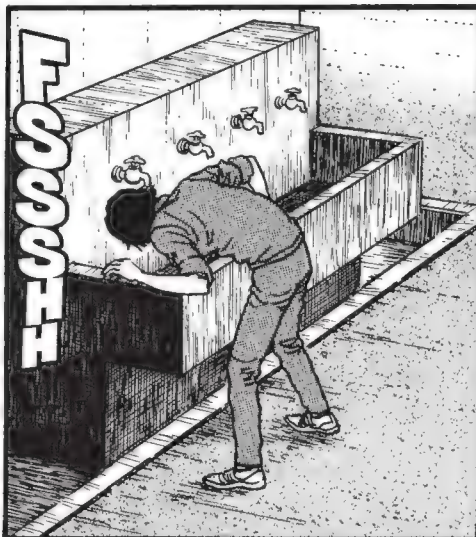
THUP





...KATAYAMA
RETRACTED
INTO HIS
SHELL.

WHEN
THE RAIN
STOPPED
...



NOT
REALLY...
IT'S NOT
THAT HOT.

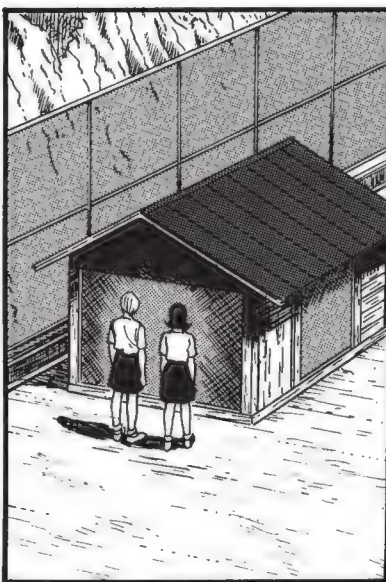
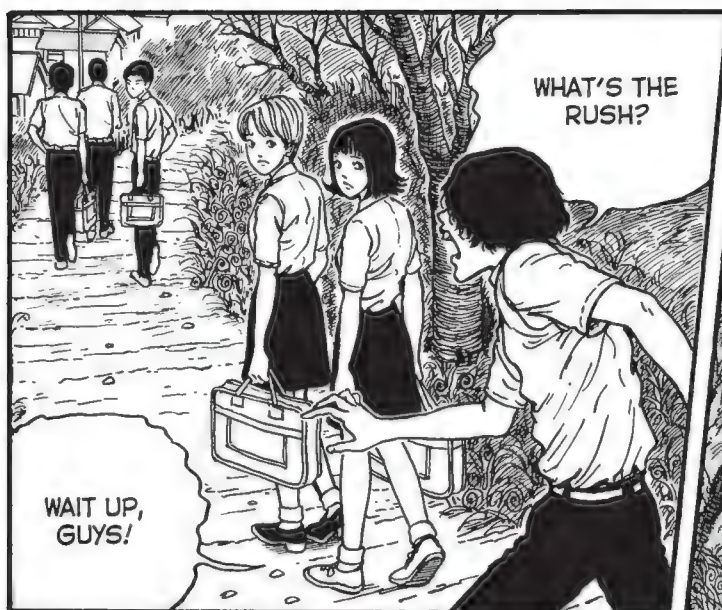


AREN'T
YOU GUYS
THIRSTY?

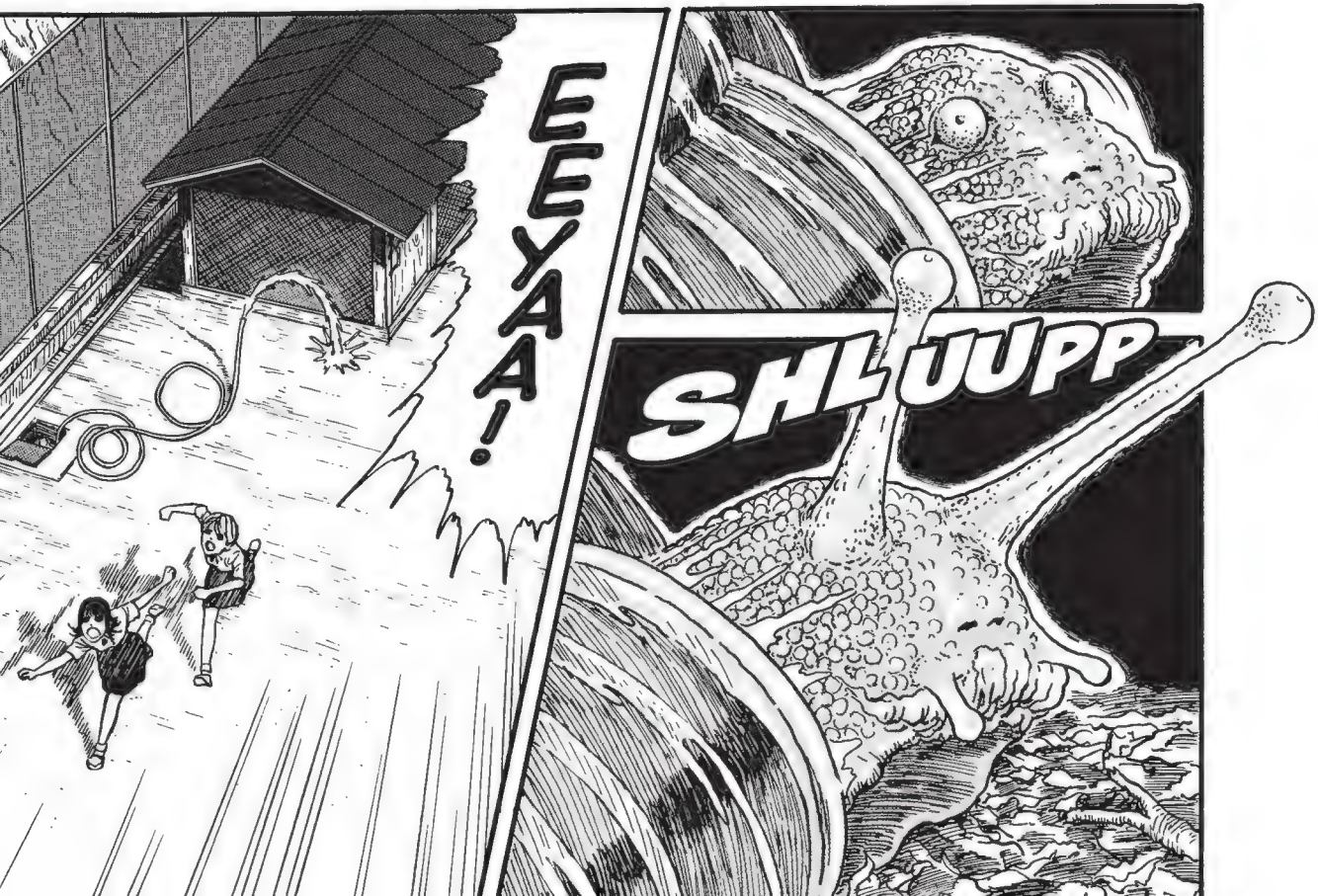
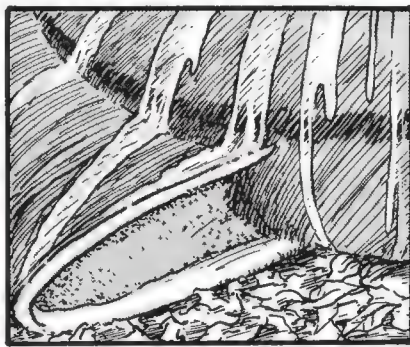
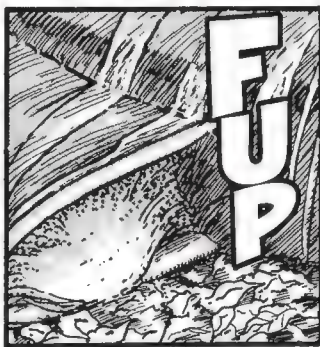
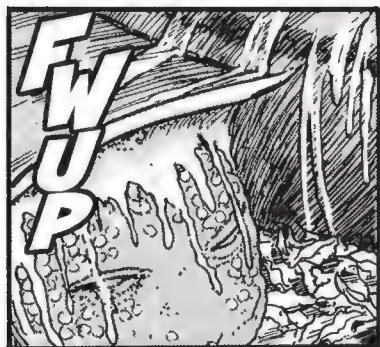
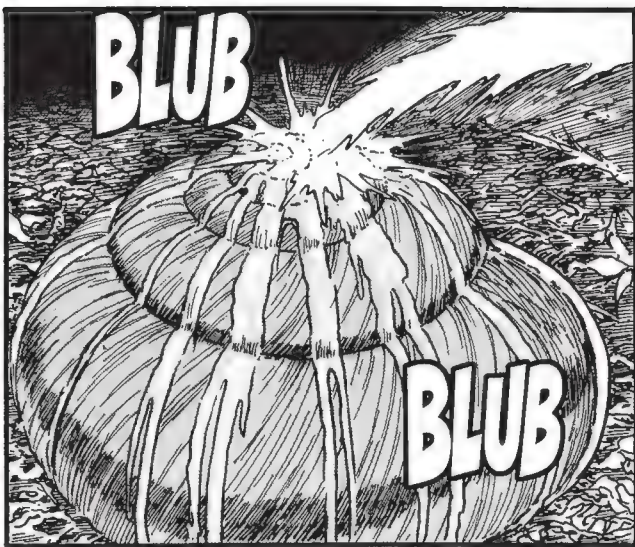
WHADDA
YOU
MEAN?

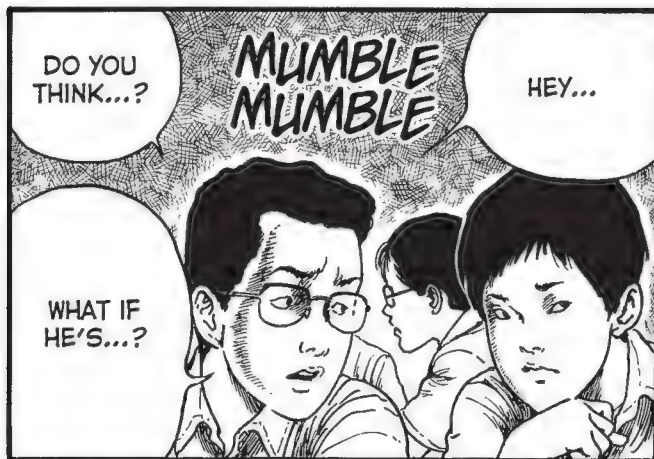


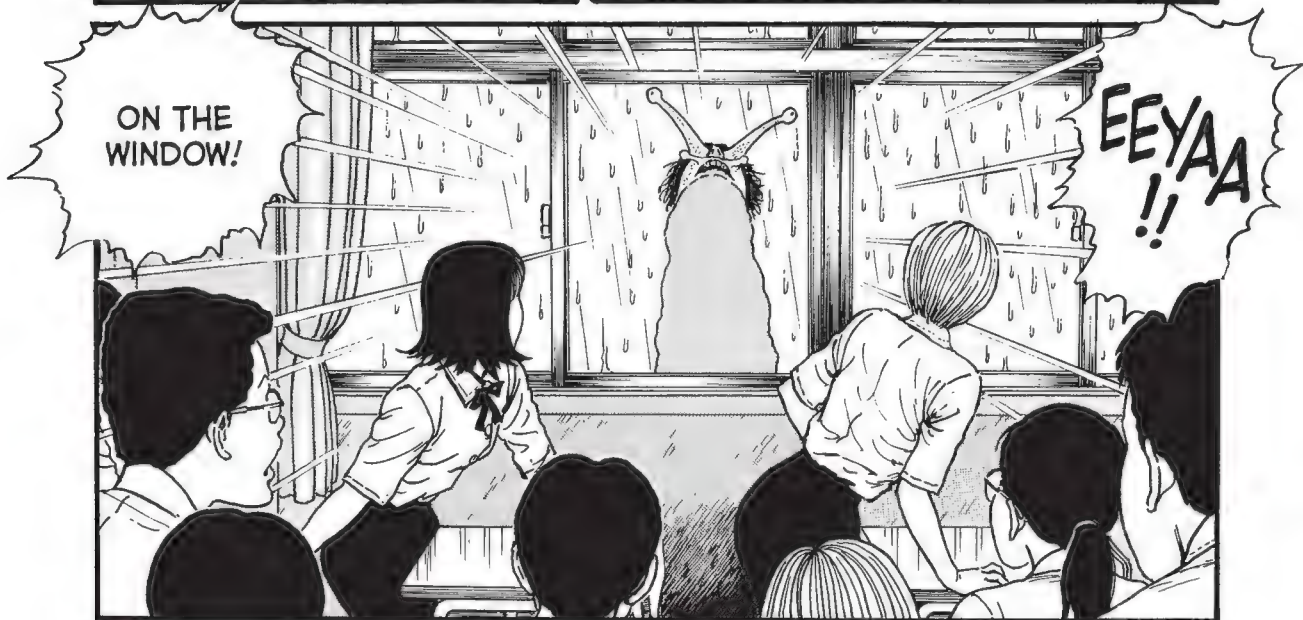
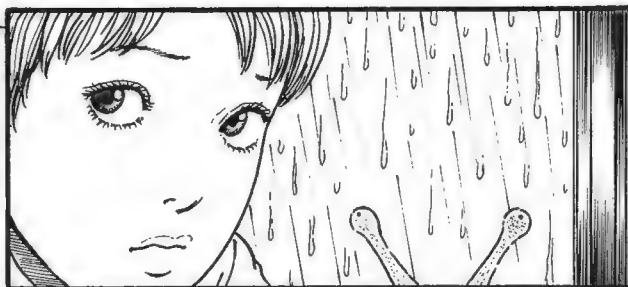
YOU'RE
GONNA
DROWN
DRINKING
THAT MUCH.

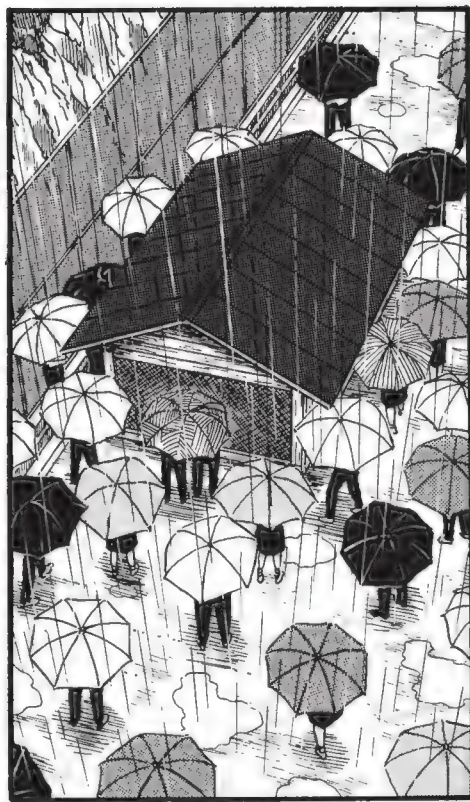
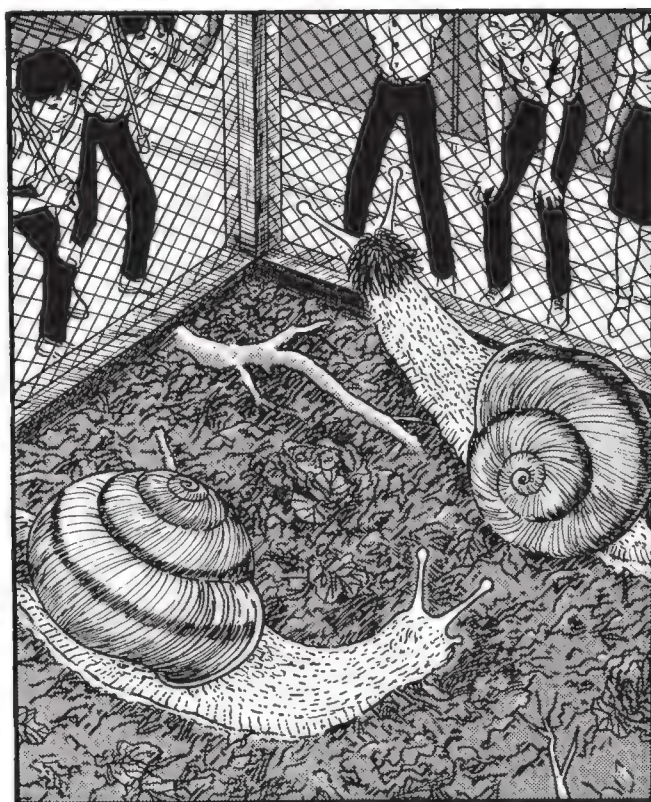


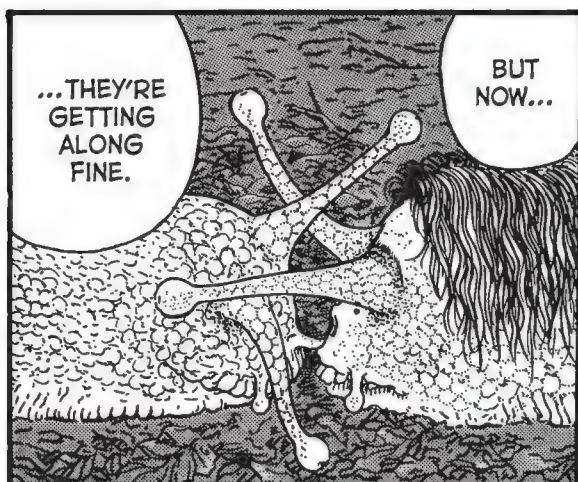






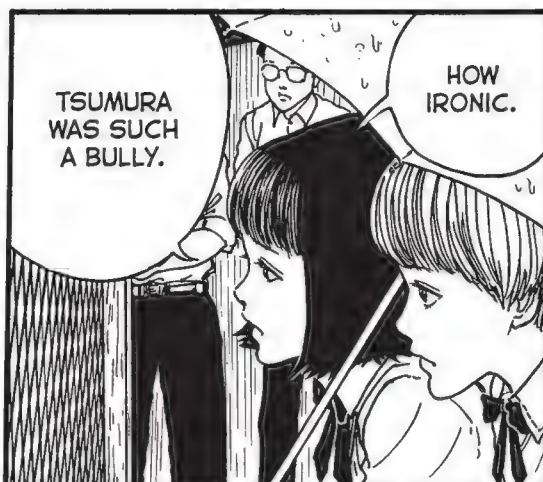






...THEY'RE
GETTING
ALONG
FINE.

BUT
NOW...



TSUMURA
WAS SUCH
A BULLY.

HOW
IRONIC.



EH?

WH...
WHAT
THE
HELL...



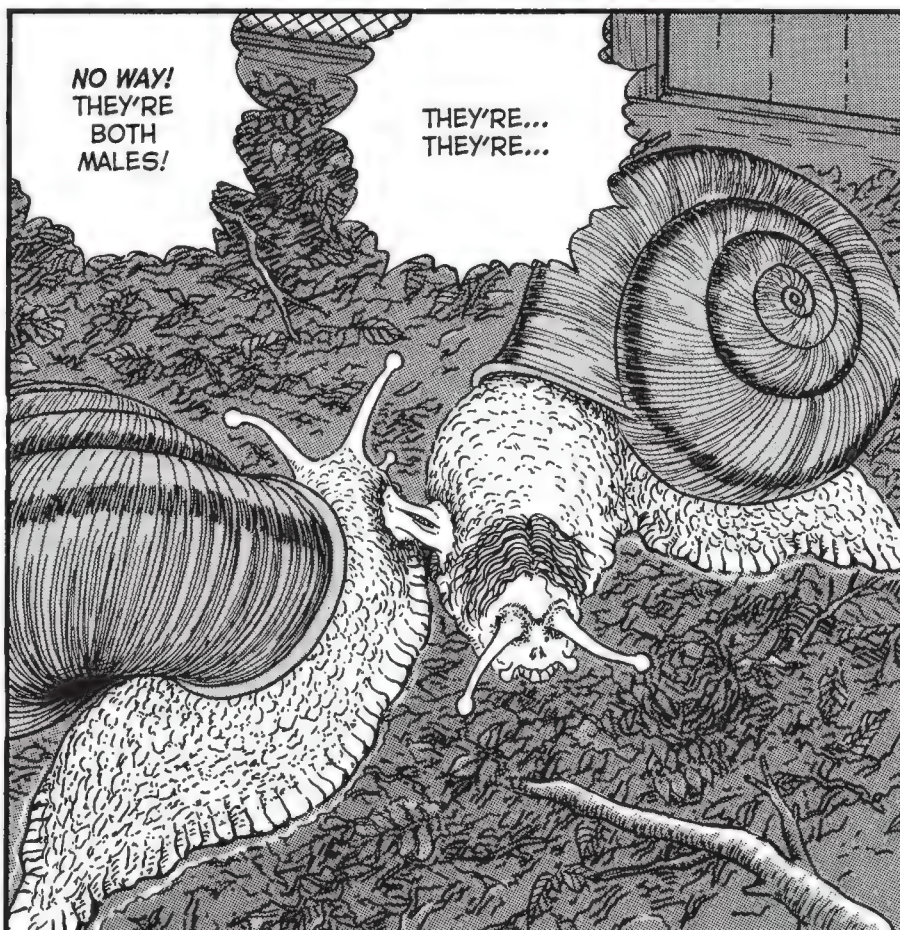
WHAT
ARE THEY
DOING?

IT
LOOKS
KINDA
ODD...



SNAILS ARE
HERMAPHRO-
DITES!

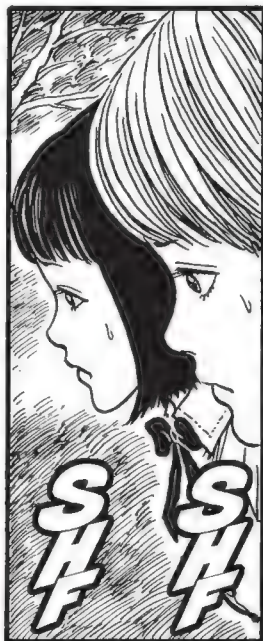
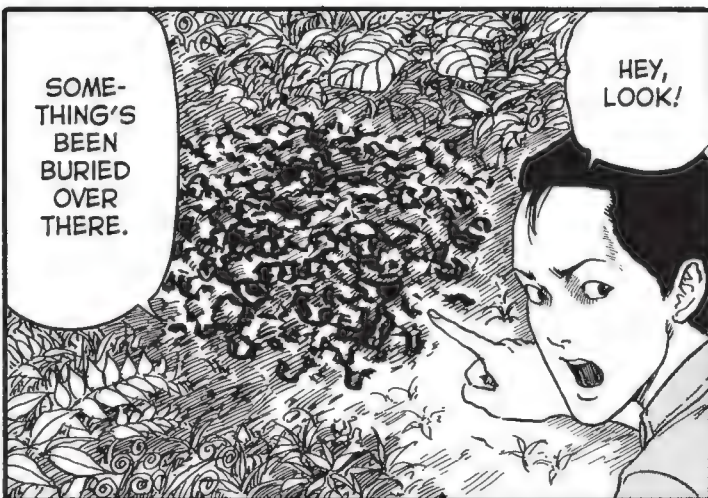
THEY'RE
MATING!



NO WAY!
THEY'RE
BOTH
MALES!

THEY'RE...
THEY'RE...







ONE OF
THEM
LAID
EGGS!!



THEY'RE...
MOLLUSK
PEOPLE.

IT'S CLEAR
THESE TWO
BOYS ARE
NO LONGER
REMOТЕLY
HUMAN.

TH-THEY
LOOK LIKE
TENNIS
BALLS!



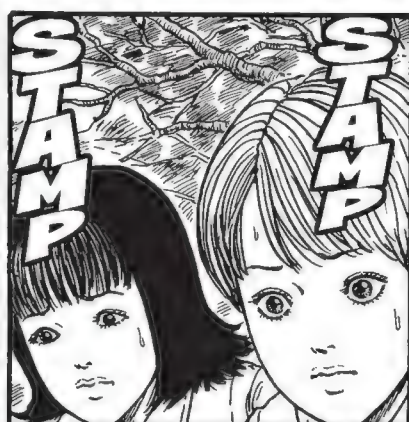
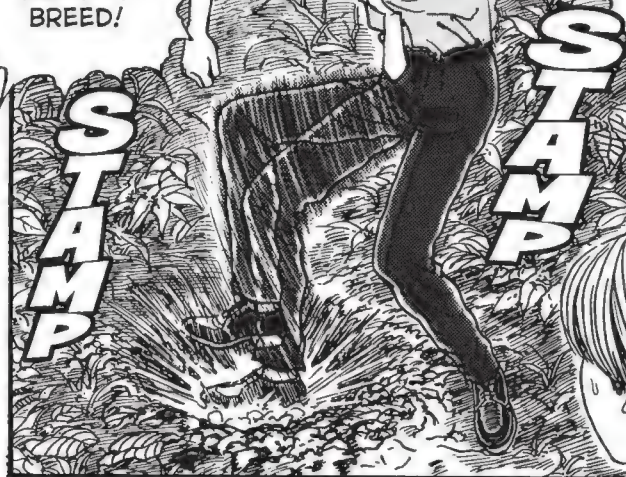
SNAILS ARE
MOLLUSKS,
SO...

MOLLUSK
PEOPLE?

IT'S
DISGUSTING,
UNNATURAL!
THESE
CREATURES
MUSTN'T
BREED!

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?
I'M
CRUSHING
THEM!!

MR. YOKOTA!
WHAT'RE YOU
DOING!?



BUT WE NEVER
FOUND ANY OTHER
EGGS...OR OUR
FORMER
CLASSMATES.



AND WE
HAVE TO
FIND THOSE
SNAILS.

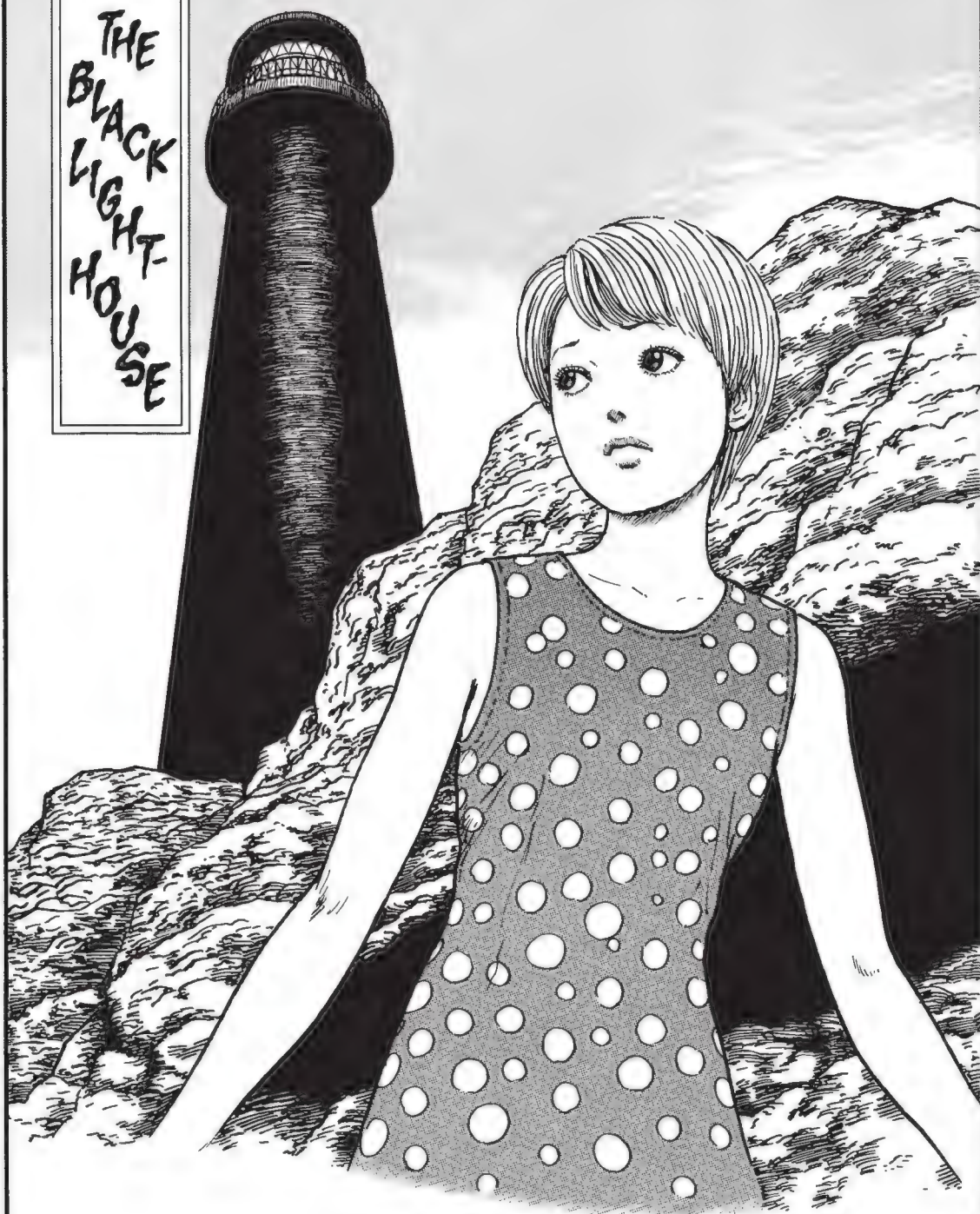
THEY MIGHT
HAVE LAID
OTHER
EGGS.
WE HAVE TO
FIND THEM!

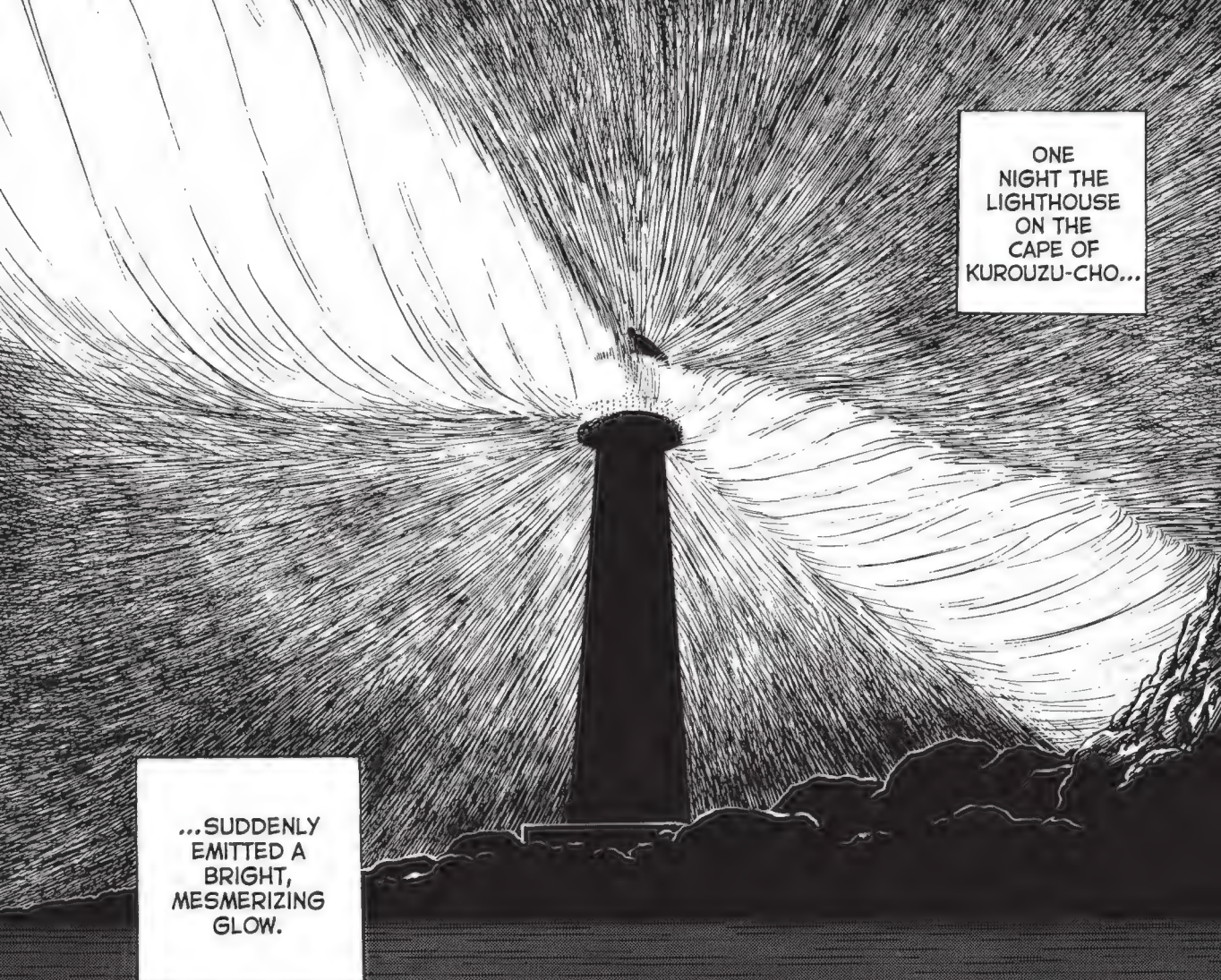


CHAPTER

9

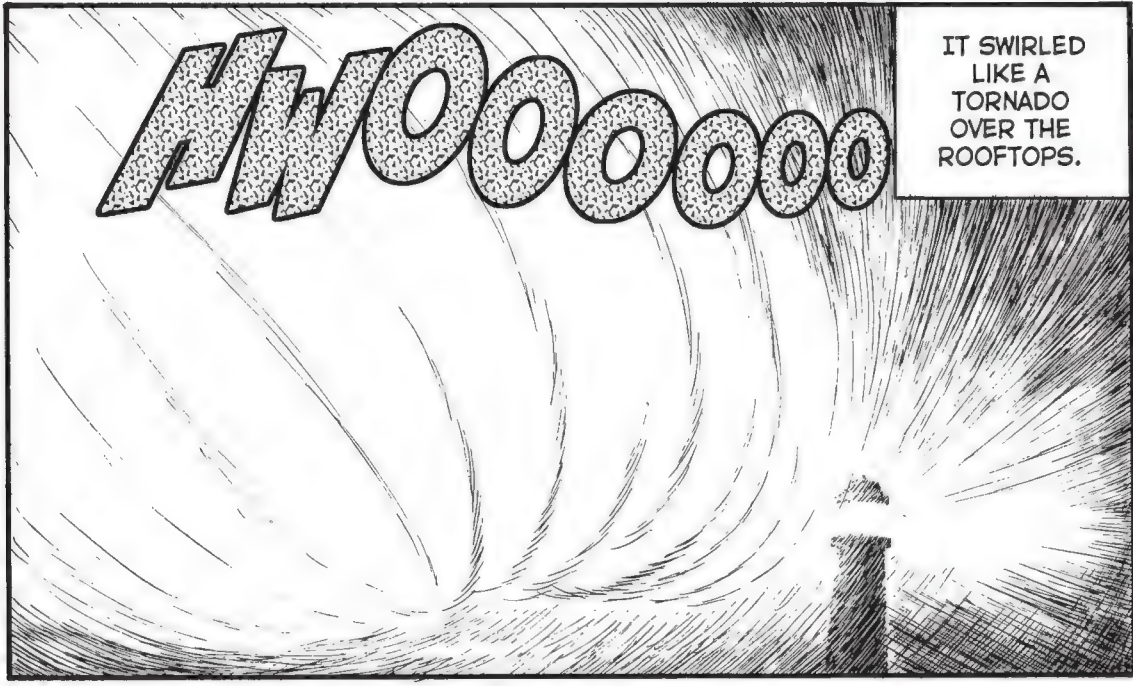
THE
BLACK
LIGHT-
HOUSE





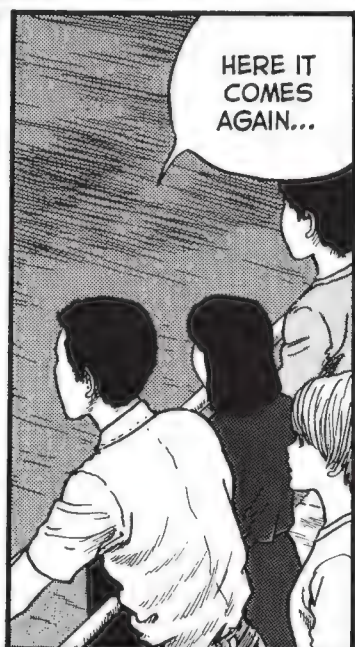
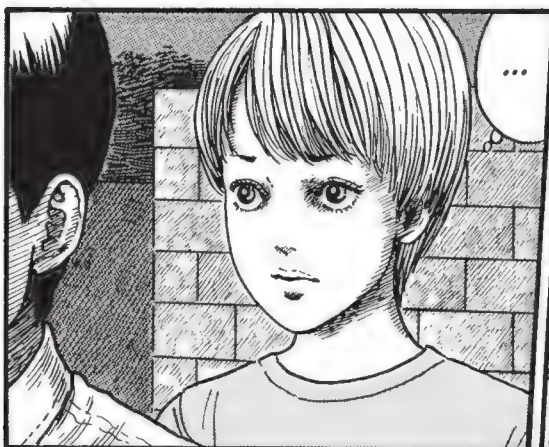
ONE
NIGHT THE
LIGHTHOUSE
ON THE
CAPE OF
KUROUZU-CHO...

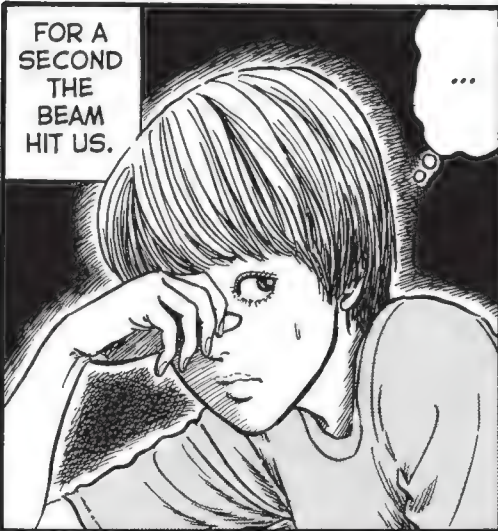
...SUDDENLY
EMITTED A
BRIGHT,
MESMERIZING
GLOW.



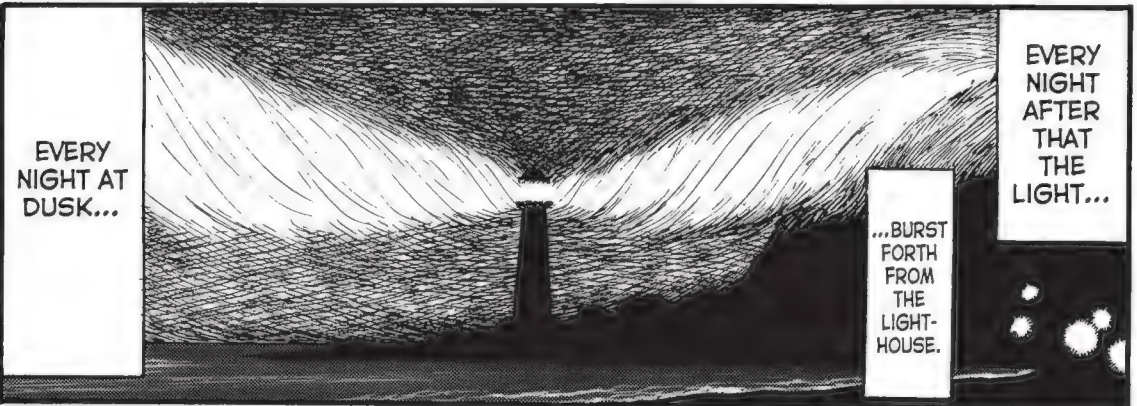
HWOoooo

IT SWIRLED
LIKE A
TORNADO
OVER THE
ROOFTOPS.





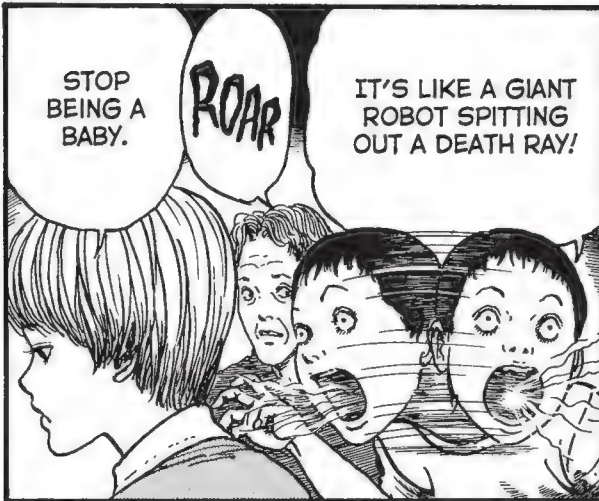
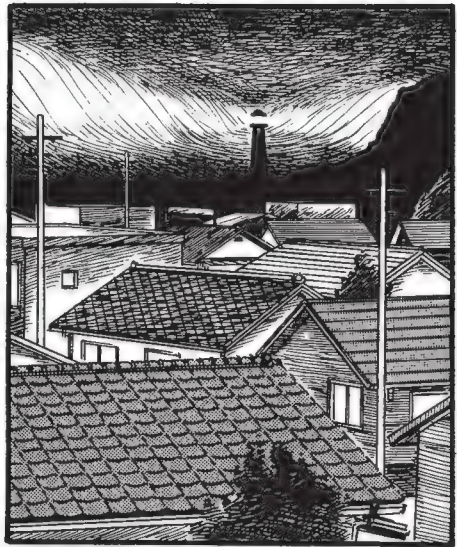
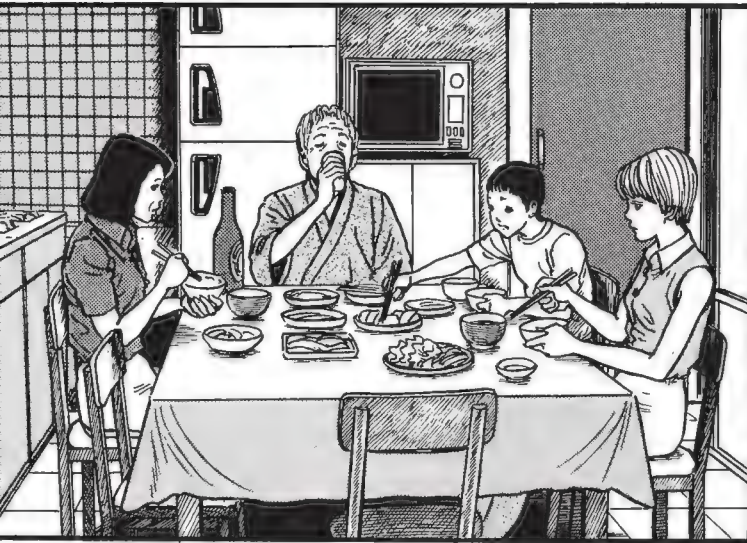
FOR A
SECOND
THE
BEAM
HIT US.



EVERY
NIGHT AT
DUSK...

EVERY
NIGHT
AFTER
THAT
THE
LIGHT...

...BURST
FORTH
FROM
THE
LIGHT-
HOUSE.



STOP
BEING A
BABY.

ROAR

IT'S LIKE A GIANT
ROBOT SPITTING
OUT A DEATH RAY!



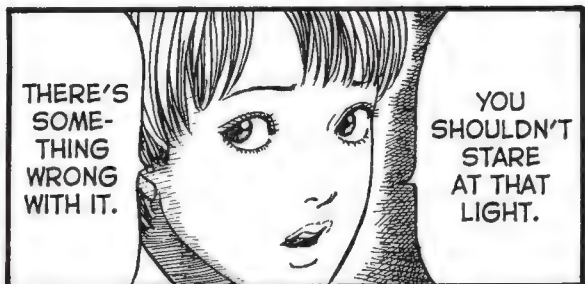
KIRIE,
ISN'T THAT
LIGHTHOUSE
COOL?

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?



AWW,
MOM!

MITSUO,
PROMISE ME
YOU WON'T GO
NEAR THE
LIGHTHOUSE.



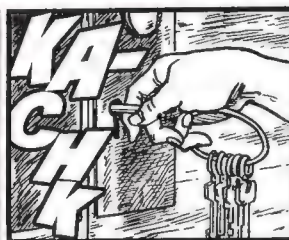
THERE'S
SOME-
THING
WRONG
WITH IT.

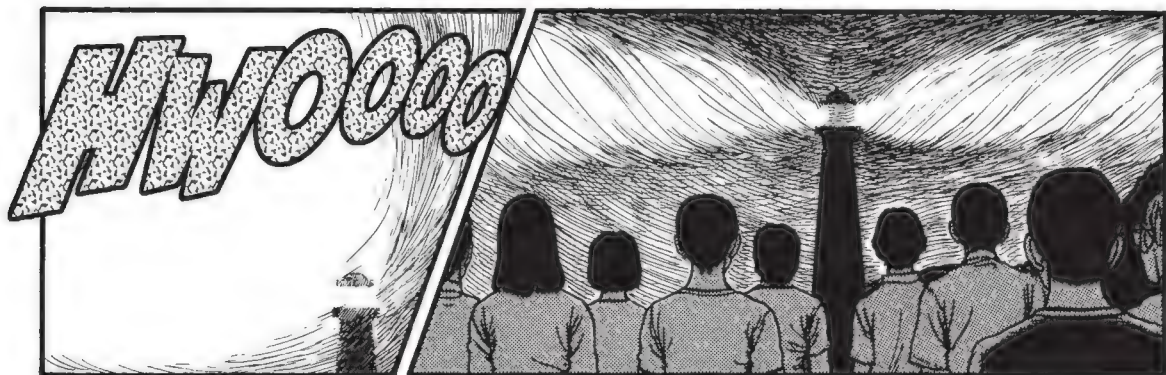
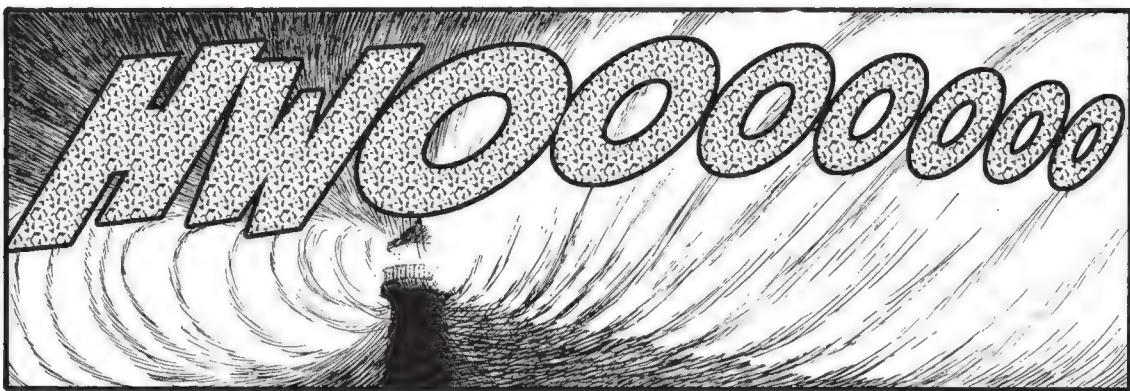
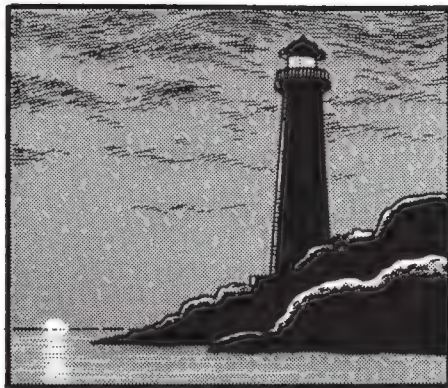
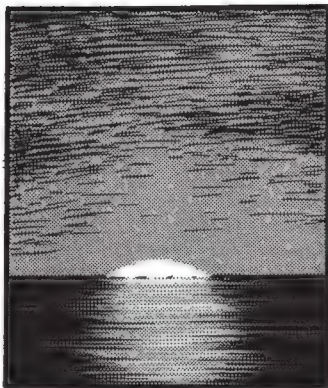
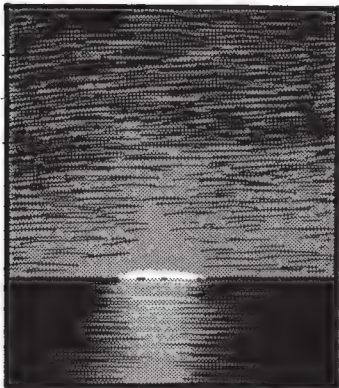
YOU
SHOULDN'T
STARE
AT THAT
LIGHT.

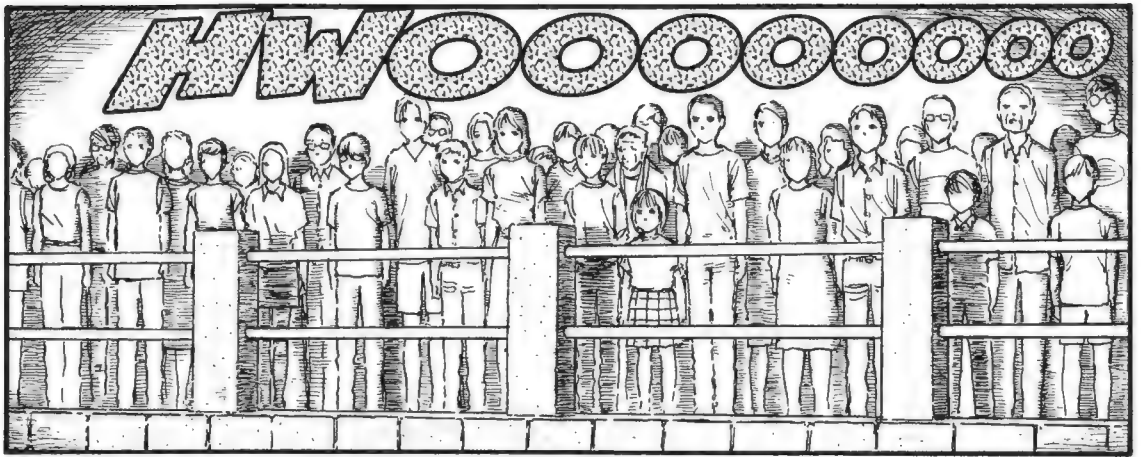


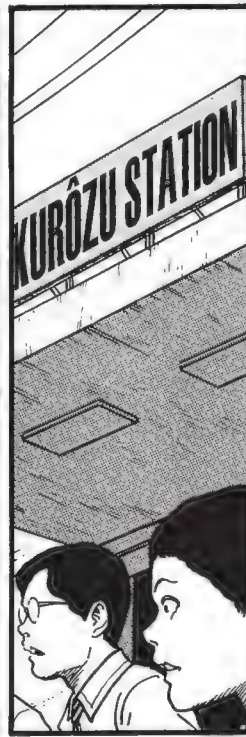
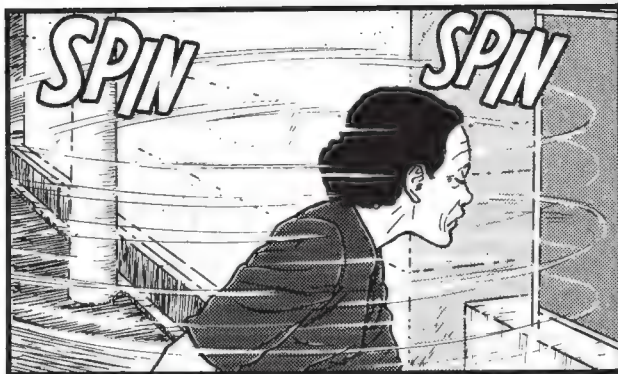
IT MAKES
ME FEEL
DIZZY.

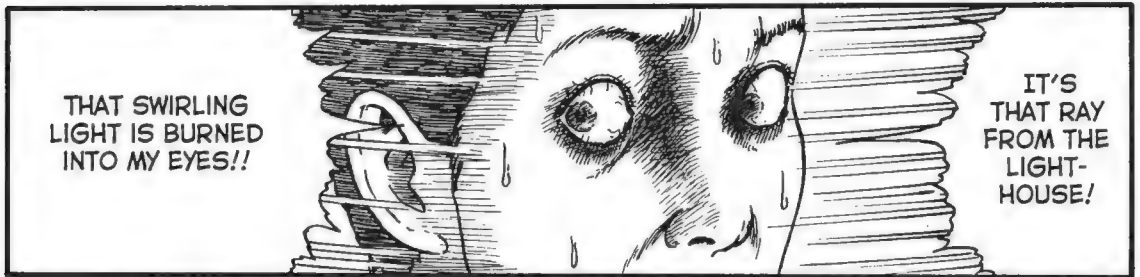
I DON'T
LIKE IT
EITHER.











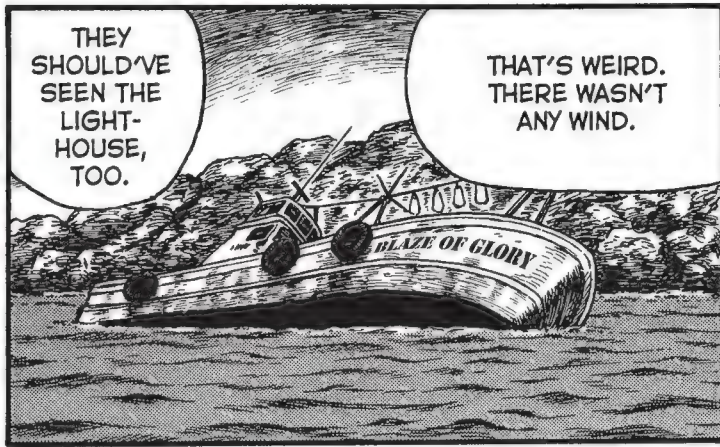


LOOKS
LIKE IT
HAP-
PENED
LAST
NIGHT!

THERE'S A
FISHING
BOAT
STRANDED
ON THE
CAPE!

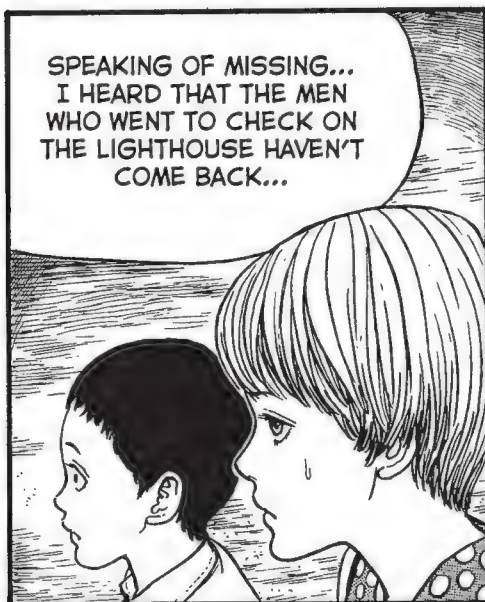


WHAT
ABOUT
THE
CREW?



THEY
SHOULD'VE
SEEN THE
LIGHT-
HOUSE,
TOO.

THAT'S WEIRD.
THERE WASN'T
ANY WIND.



SPEAKING OF MISSING...
I HEARD THAT THE MEN
WHO WENT TO CHECK ON
THE LIGHTHOUSE HAVEN'T
COME BACK...

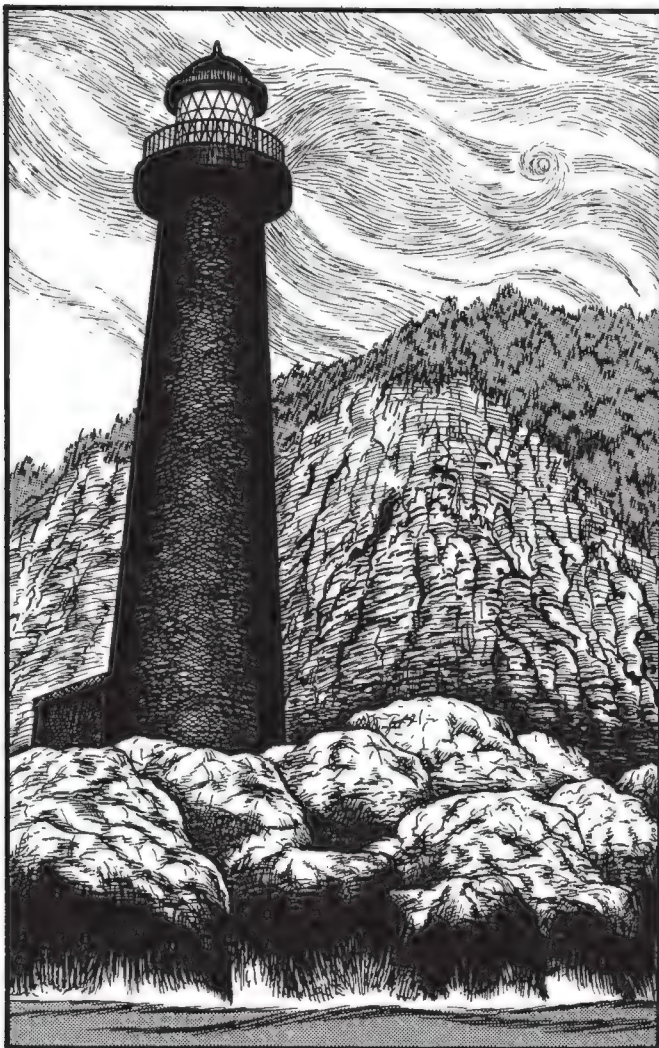


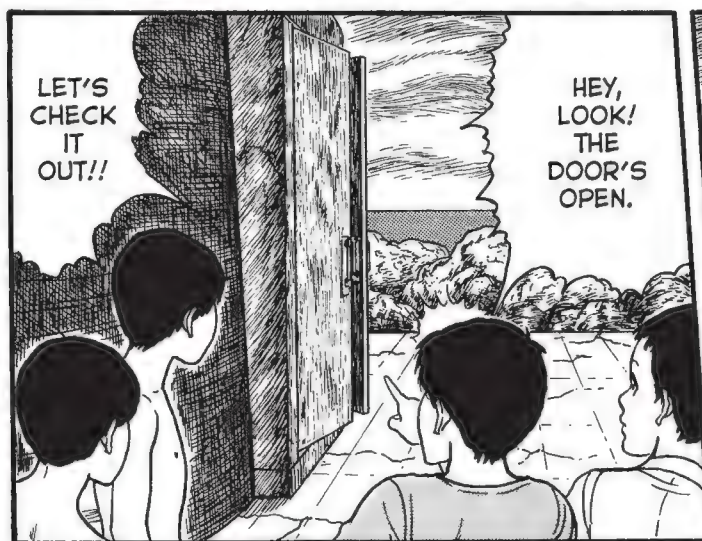
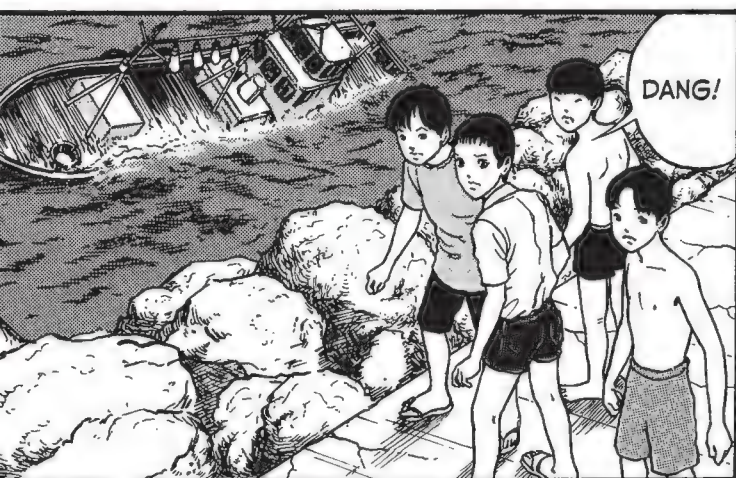
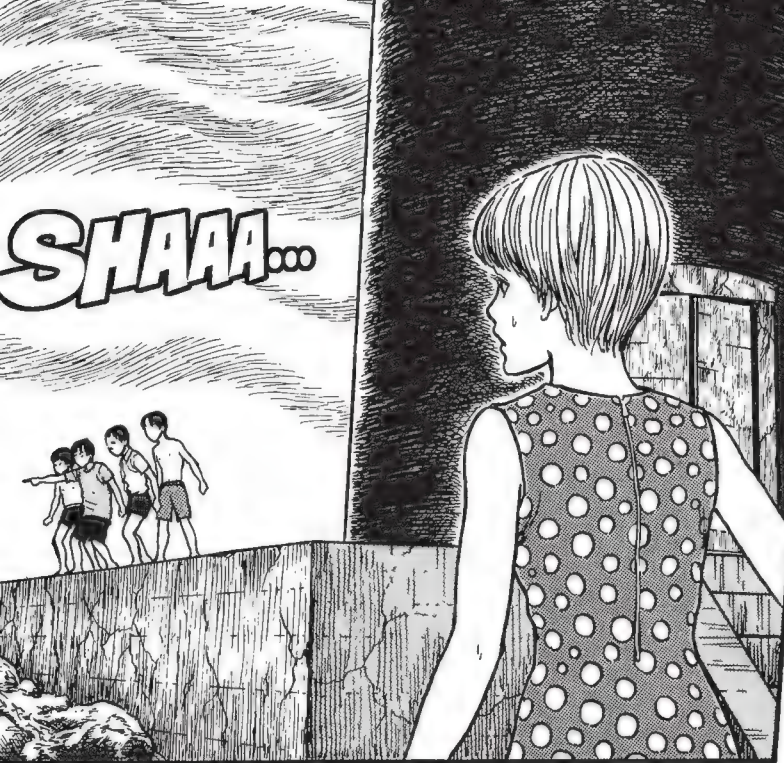
THEY ALL
EVENTUALLY
FELL INTO
THE OCEAN.
ONE WAS
RESCUED
BUT TWO ARE
MISSING.

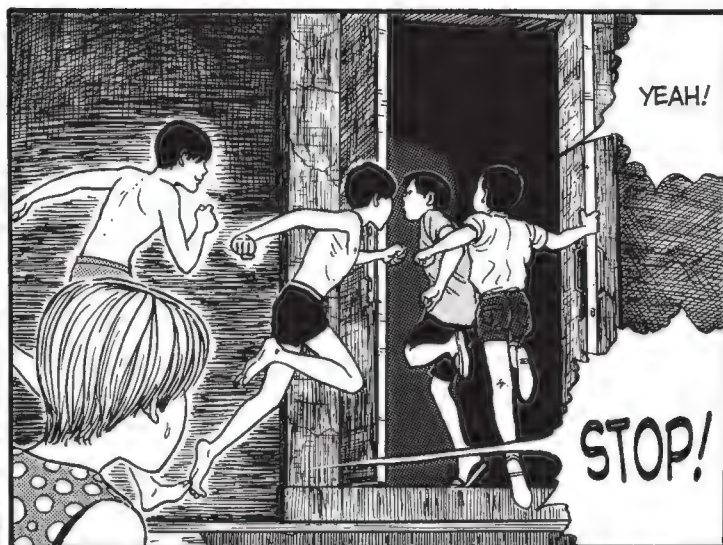
APPARENTLY, AFTER
IT RAN AGROUND,
THEY WERE FOUND
PACING THE DECK
IN CIRCLES.

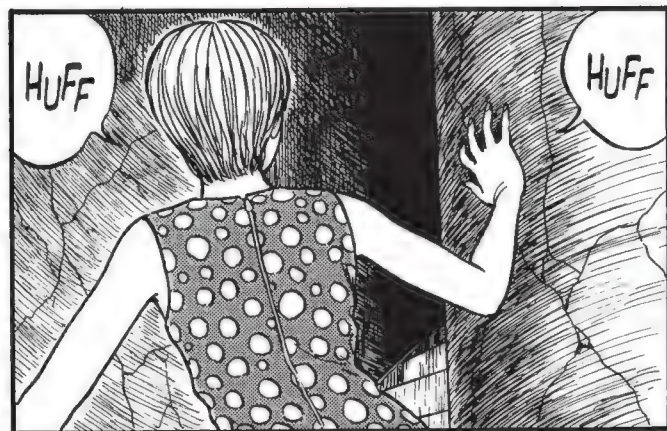
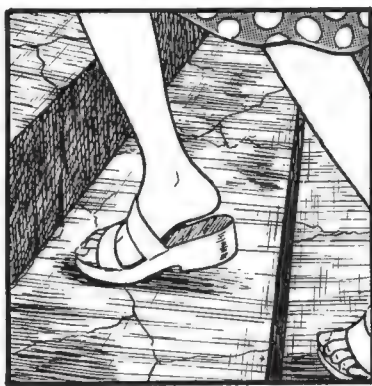
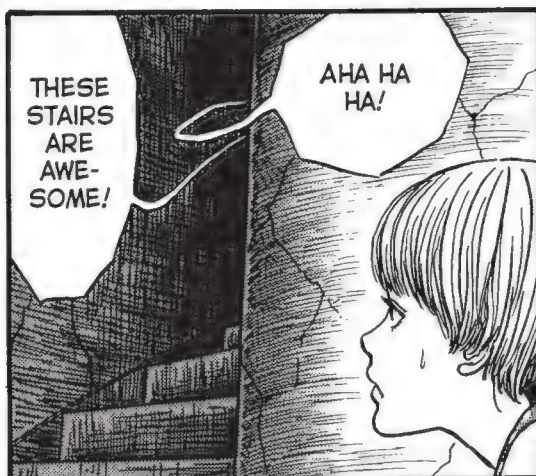


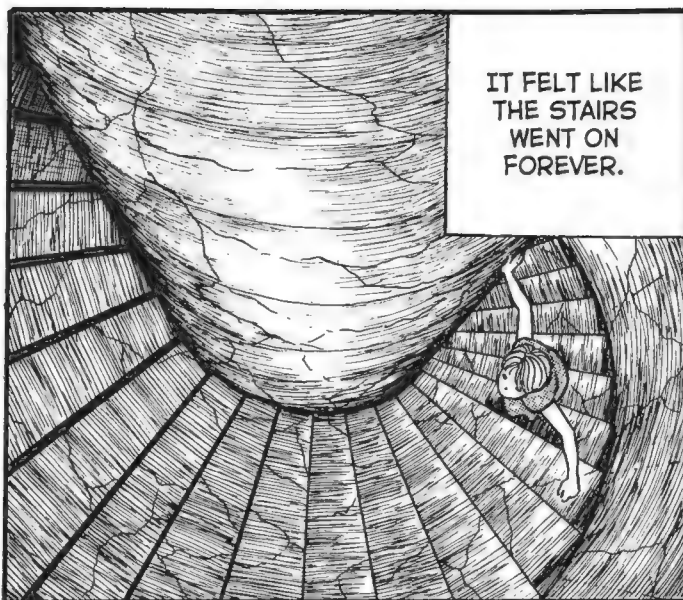
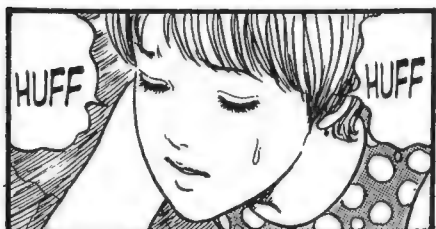
YOU CAN
SEE THE
BOAT
BETTER
FROM THE
CAPE!



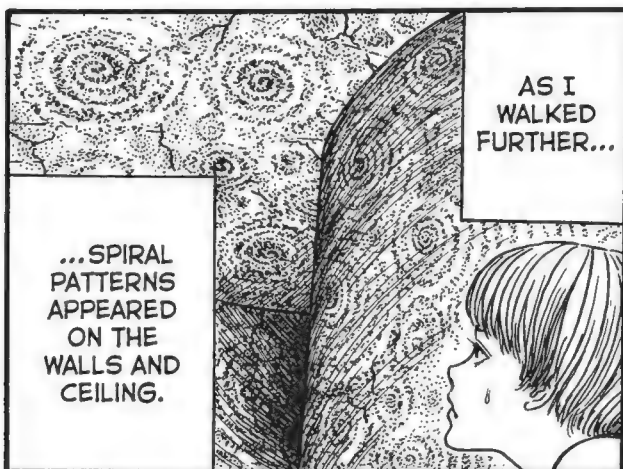








IT FELT LIKE
THE STAIRS
WENT ON
FOREVER.



...SPIRAL
PATTERNS
APPEARED
ON THE
WALLS AND
CEILING.

AS I
WALKED
FURTHER...



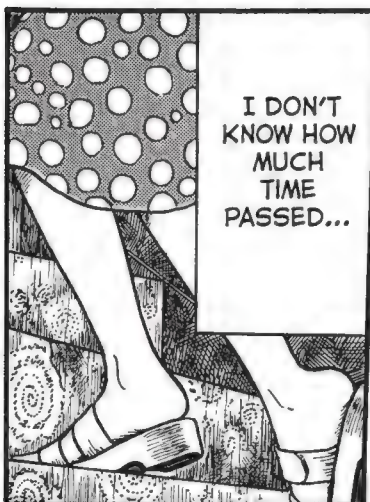
I'VE
CLIMBED
A LONG
WAY...

I DON'T
GET IT...
WHERE
AM I
NOW?

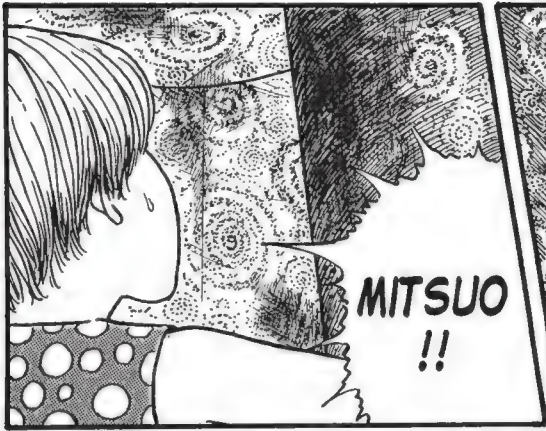
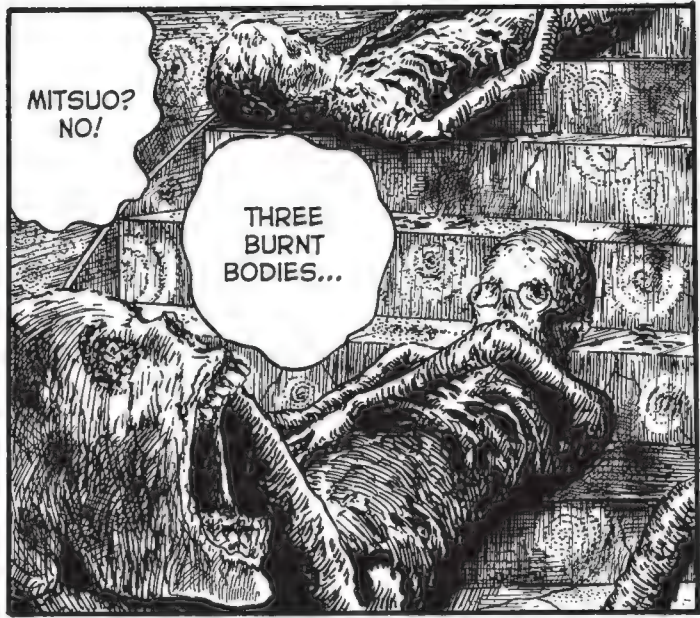


THERE
WERE NO
WINDOWS,
SO IT WAS
THE ONLY
LIGHT.

THEY
GLOWED
EERILY
IN THE
DARK.

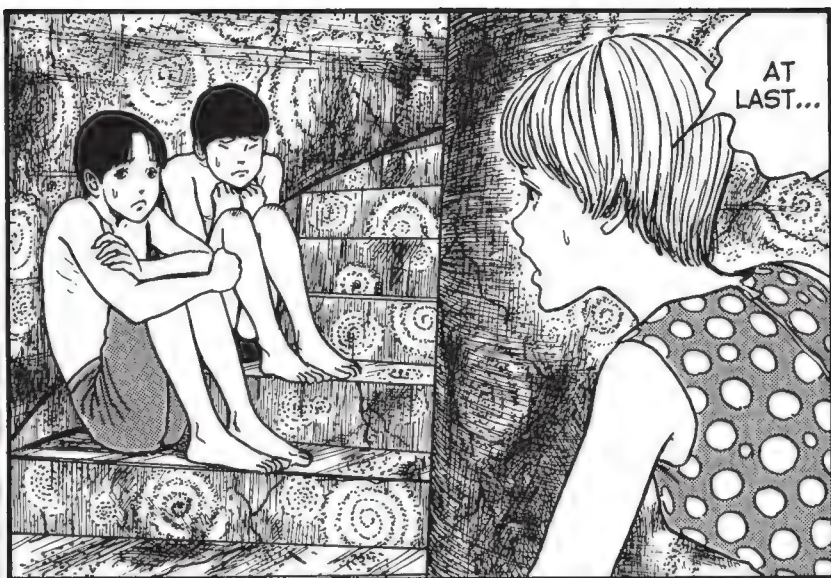




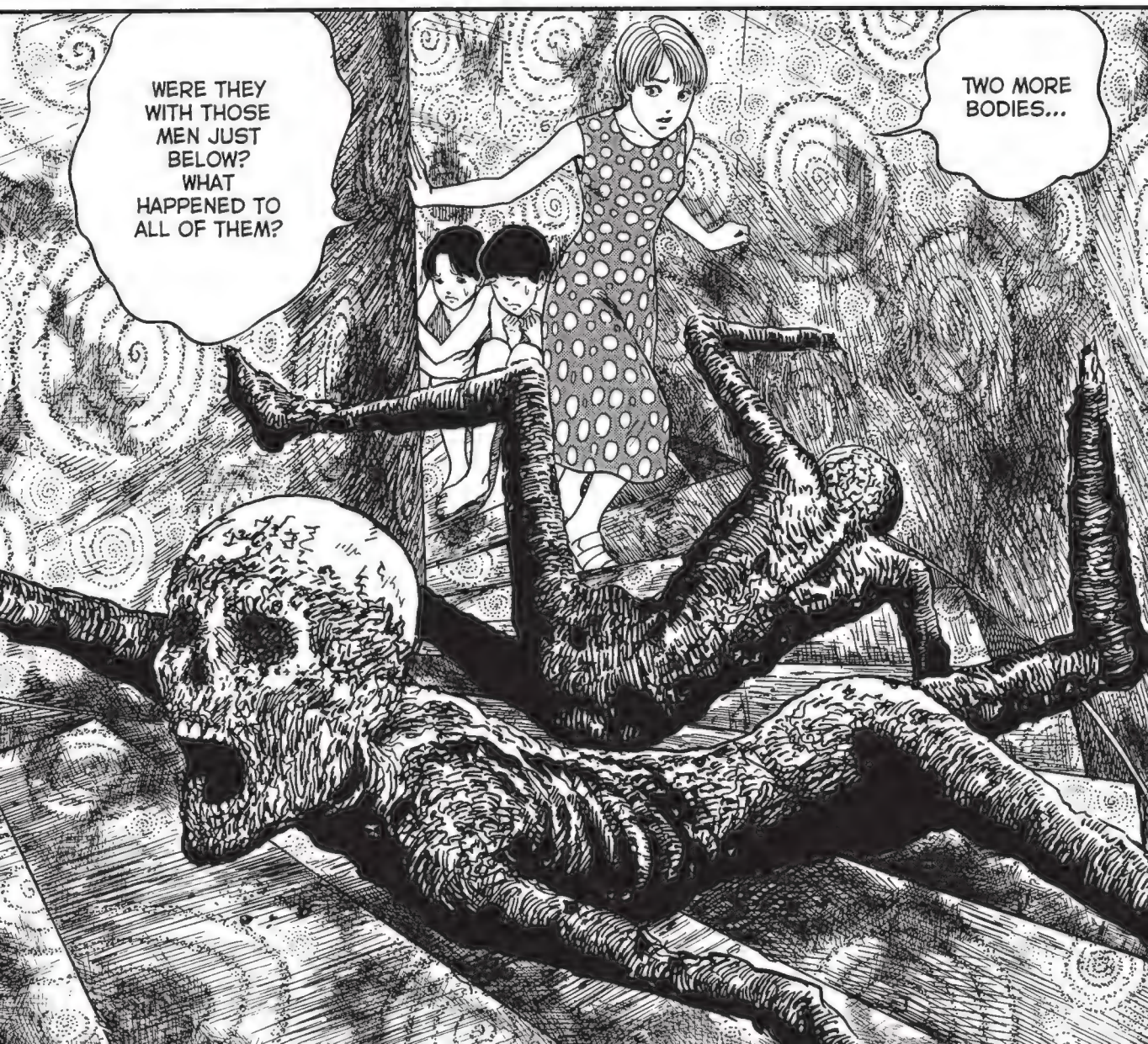




YOW!

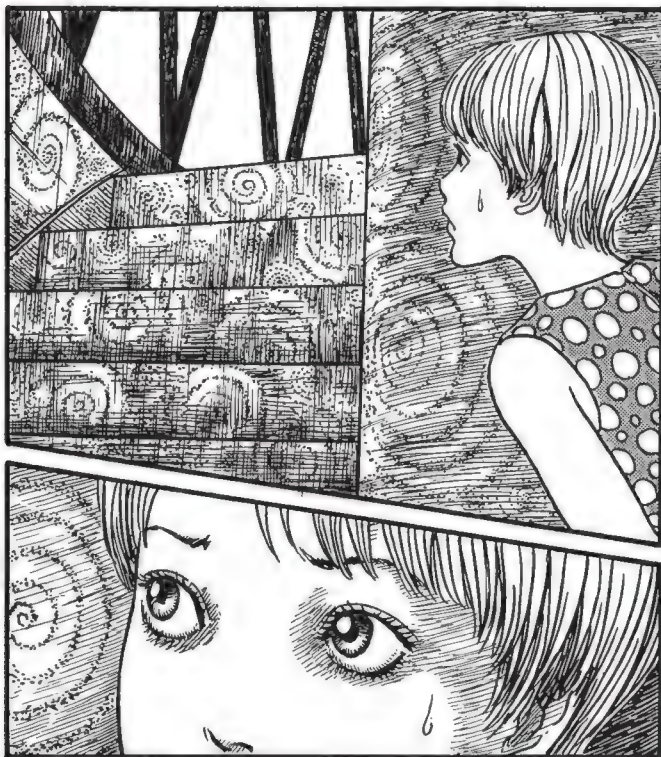


AT
LAST...

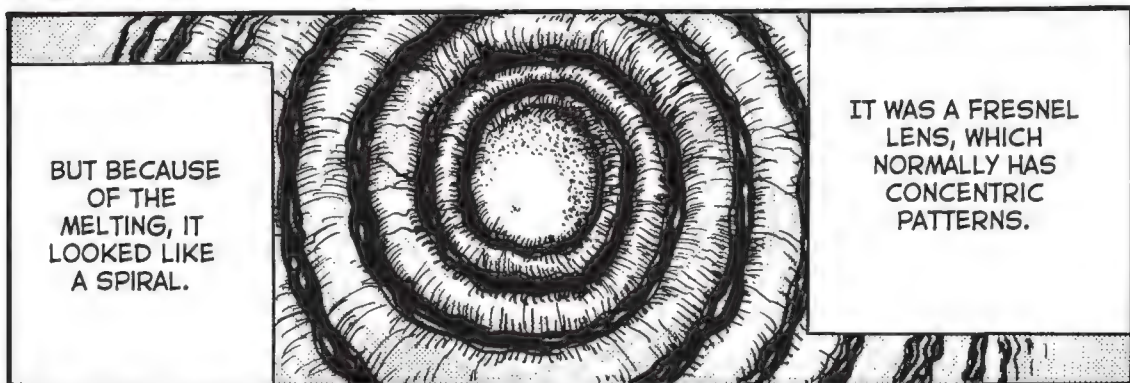
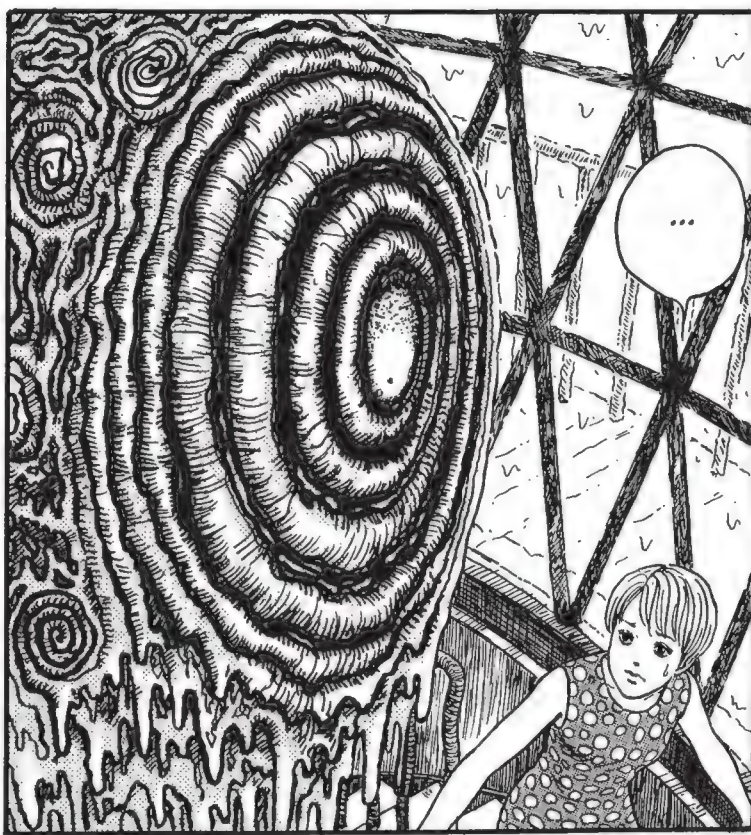


WERE THEY
WITH THOSE
MEN JUST
BELOW?
WHAT
HAPPENED TO
ALL OF THEM?

TWO MORE
BODIES...





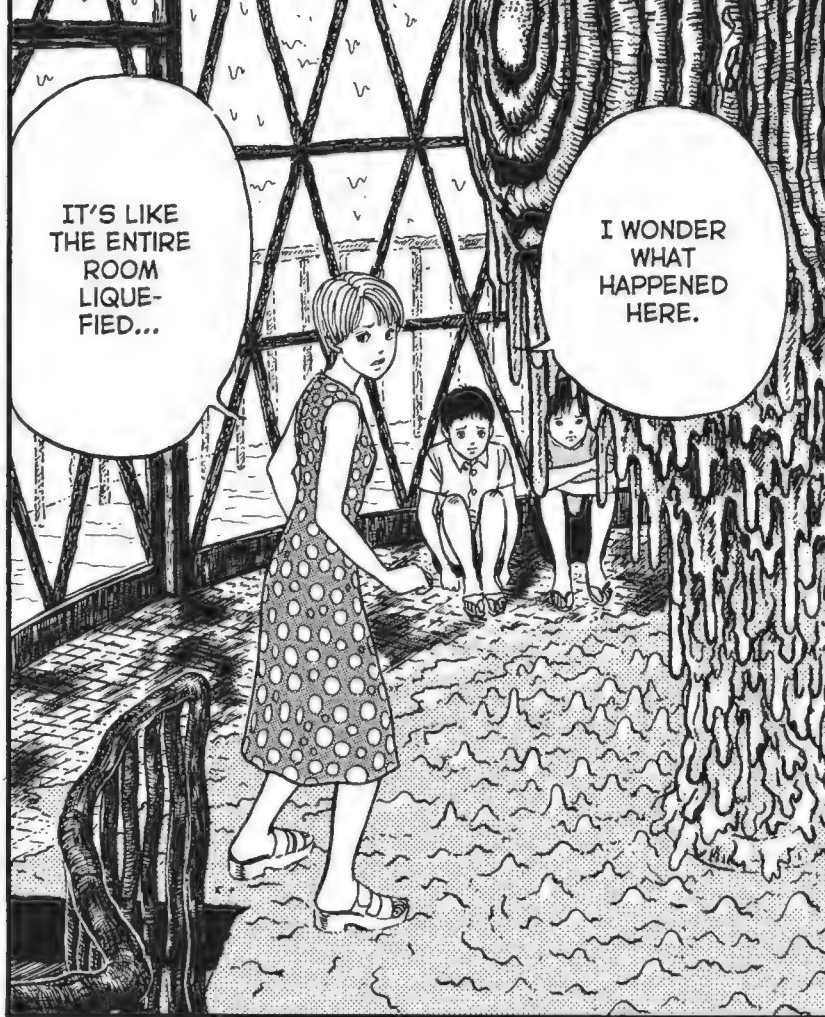


AND
THOSE
BODIES...

...

IT'S LIKE
THE ENTIRE
ROOM
LIQUE-
FIED...

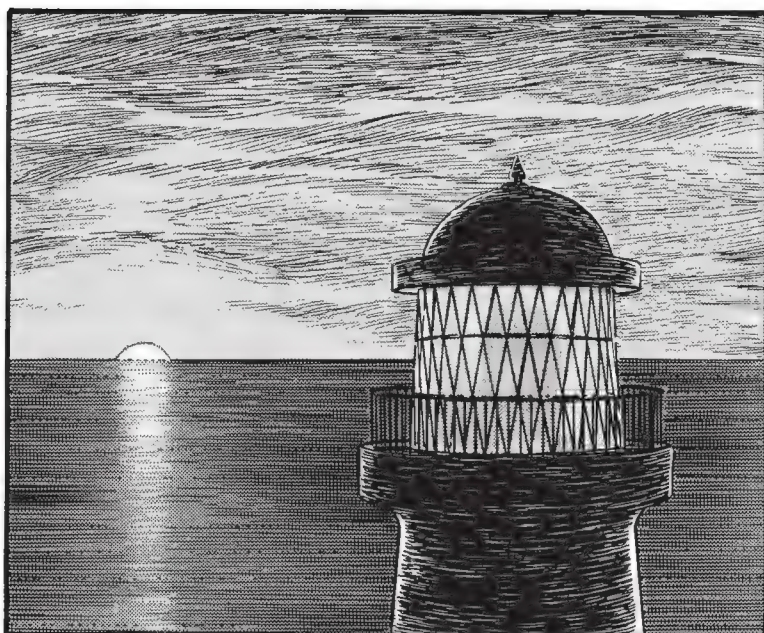
I WONDER
WHAT
HAPPENED
HERE.

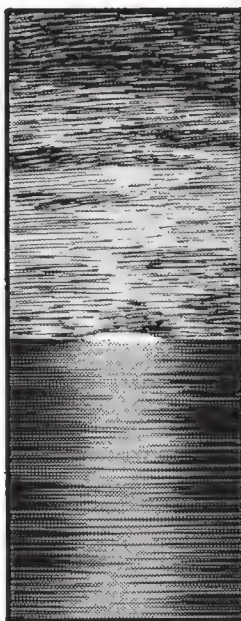
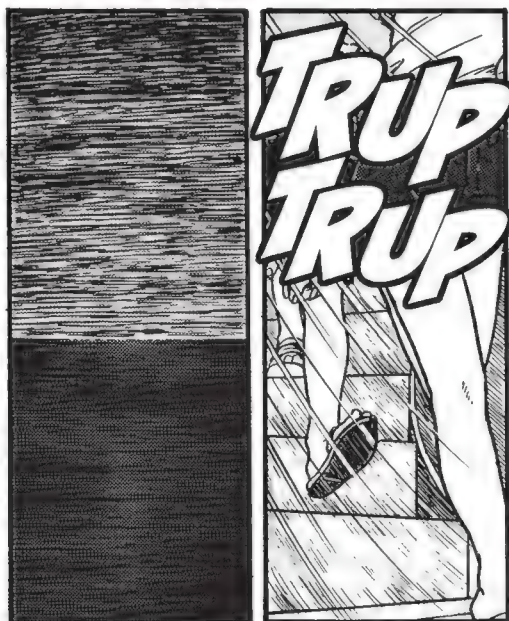
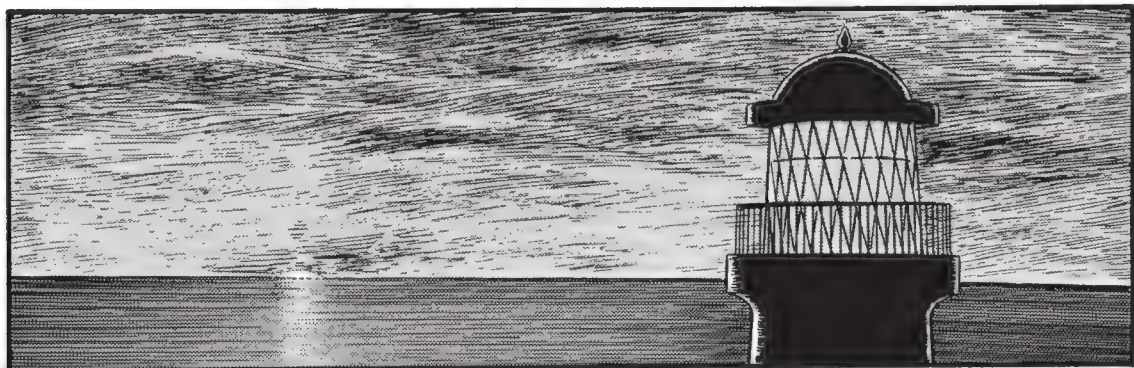
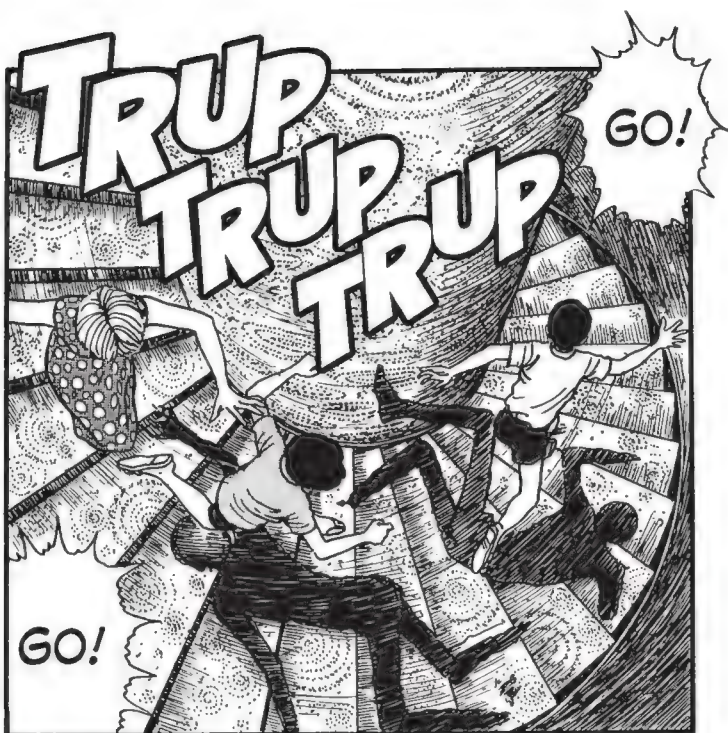


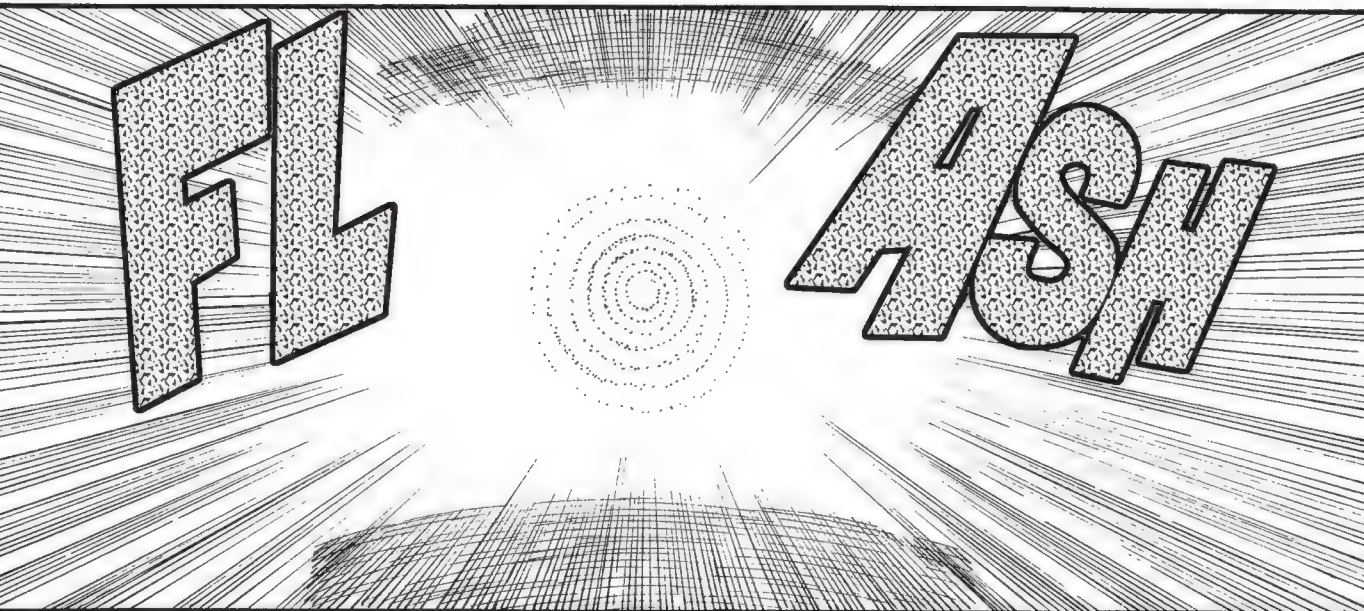
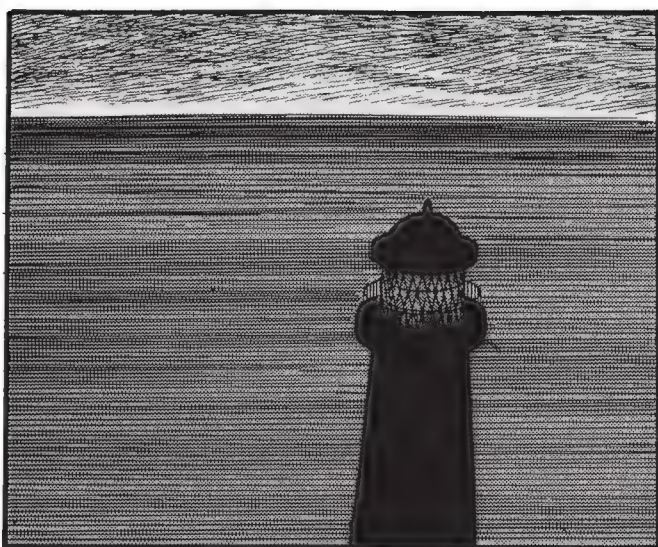
UH...I
DON'T
KNOW.

mitsuo!!
WHAT TIME
IS IT?!

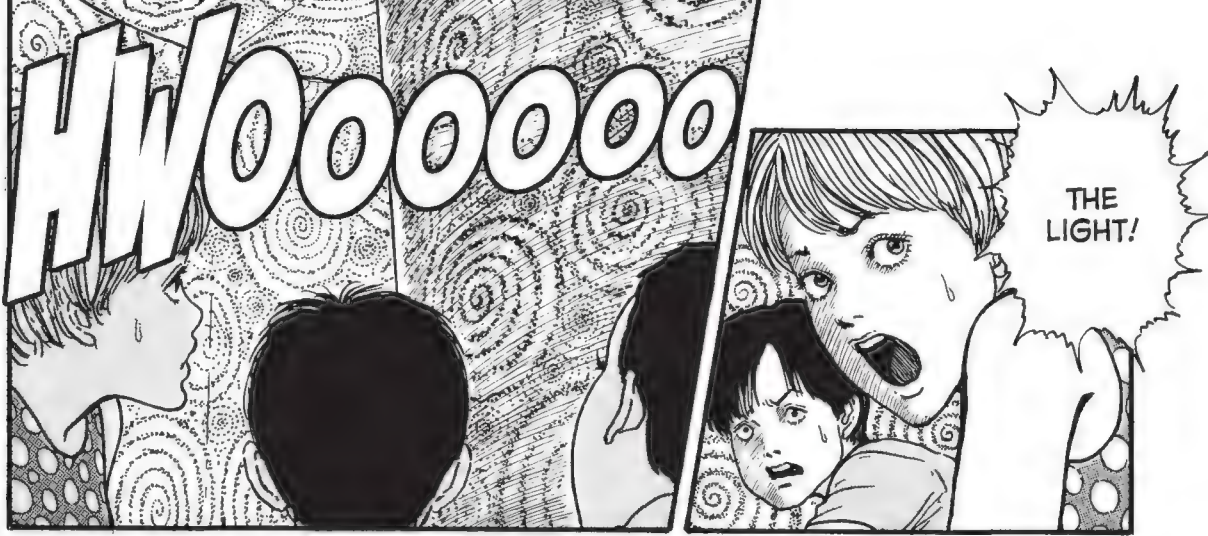




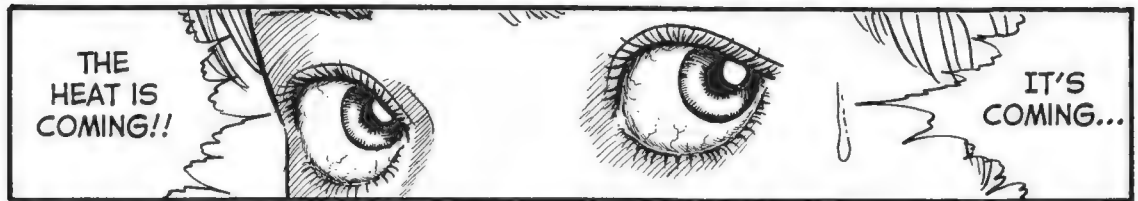




W-WE'LL
NEVER MAKE
IT!



THE
LIGHT!



THE
HEAT IS
COMING!!

IT'S
COMING...



DON'T
LOOK!
RUN!



UHH
!



HWOOOOOO

AIEE !!

HWOOOO



...GO
UP IN
FLAMES.

I SAW
THE
BOY...

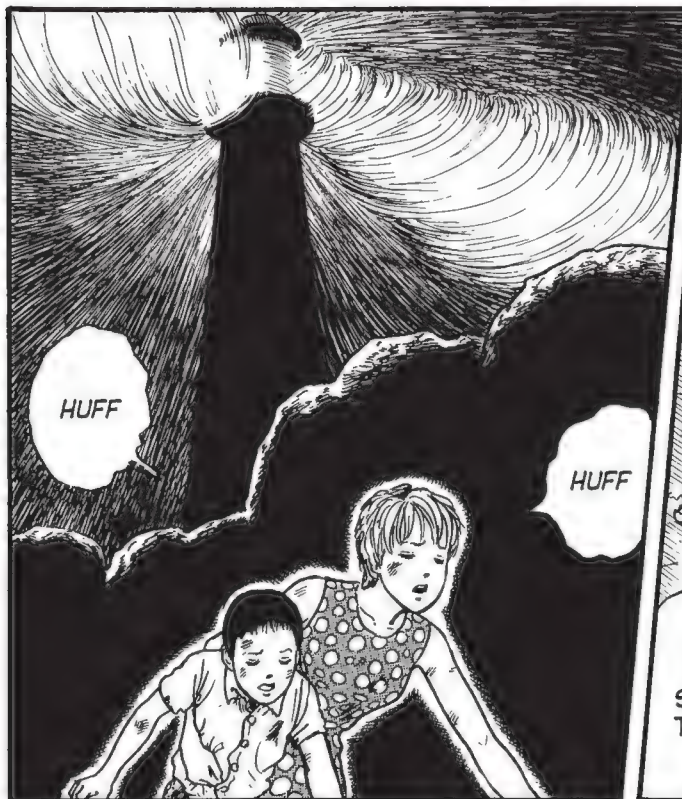
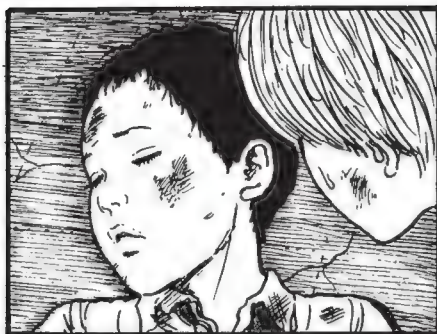


WHERE
ARE
WE?!

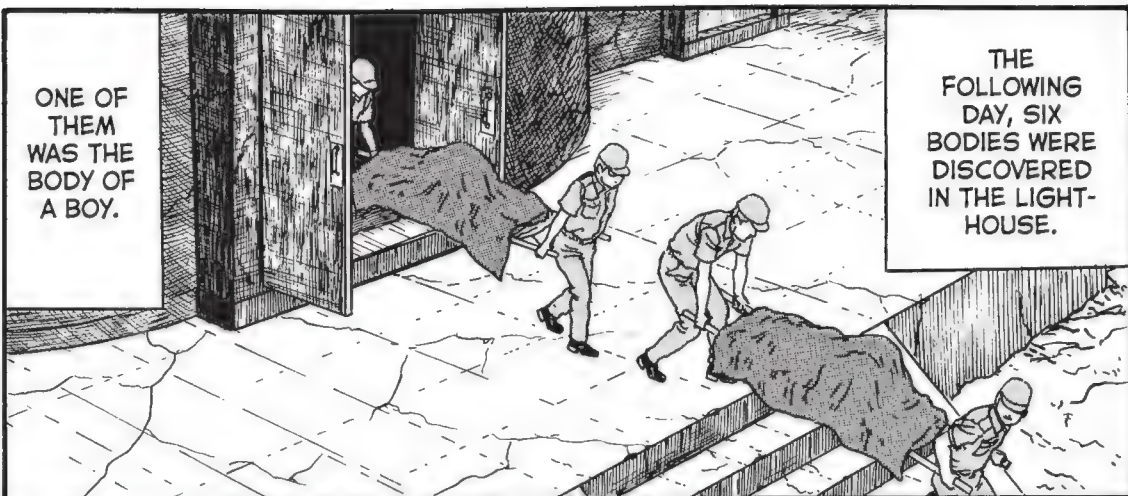
WHEN I
AWOKE...

...BUT I
REMEM-
BER
NOTHING
AFTER
THAT.

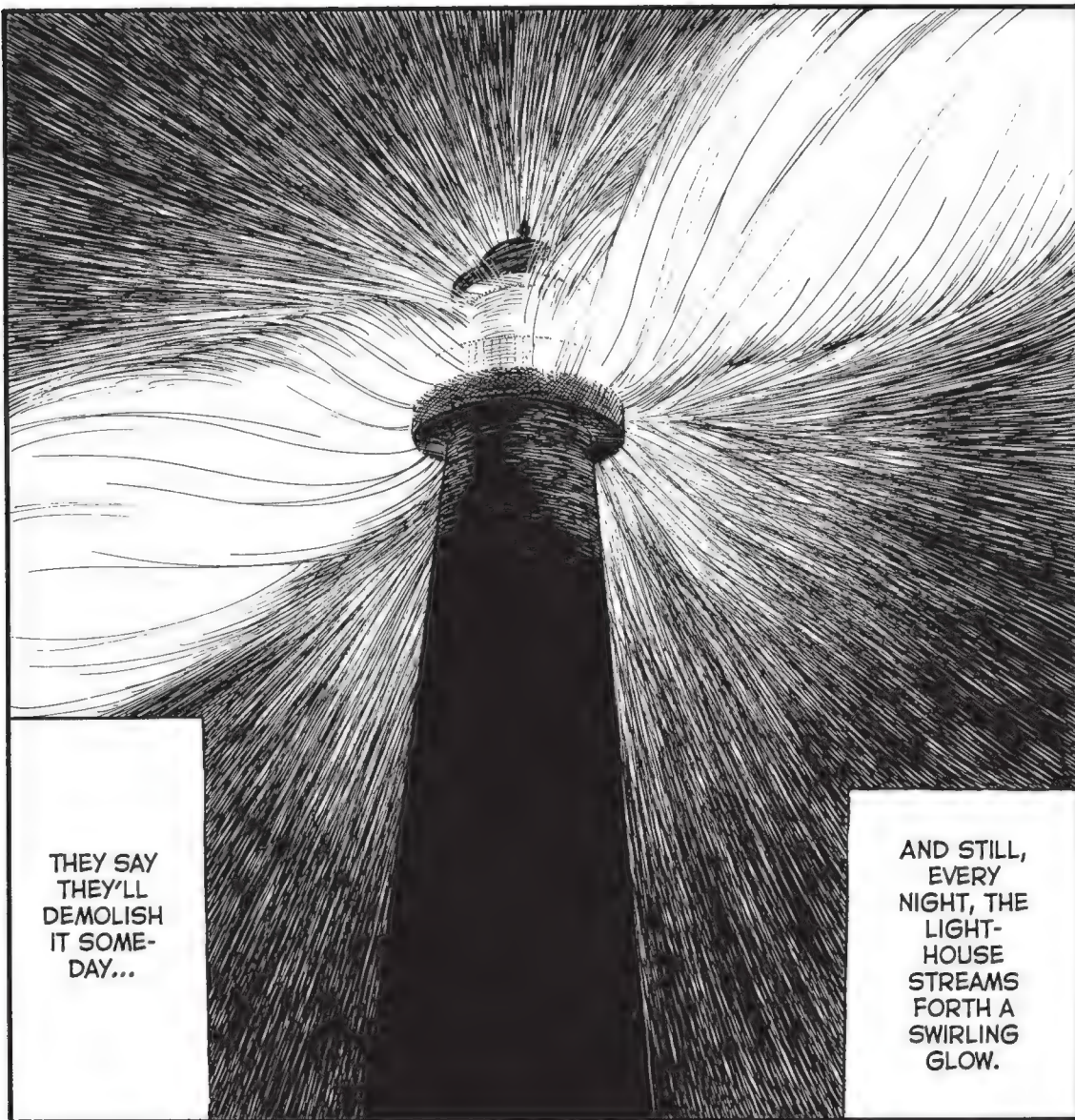
THEN WE
WERE BLOWN
BACK BY A
FIERY BLAST...



ONE OF
THEM
WAS THE
BODY OF
A BOY.



THE
FOLLOWING
DAY, SIX
BODIES WERE
DISCOVERED
IN THE LIGHT-
HOUSE.



THEY SAY
THEY'LL
DEMOLISH
IT SOME-
DAY...

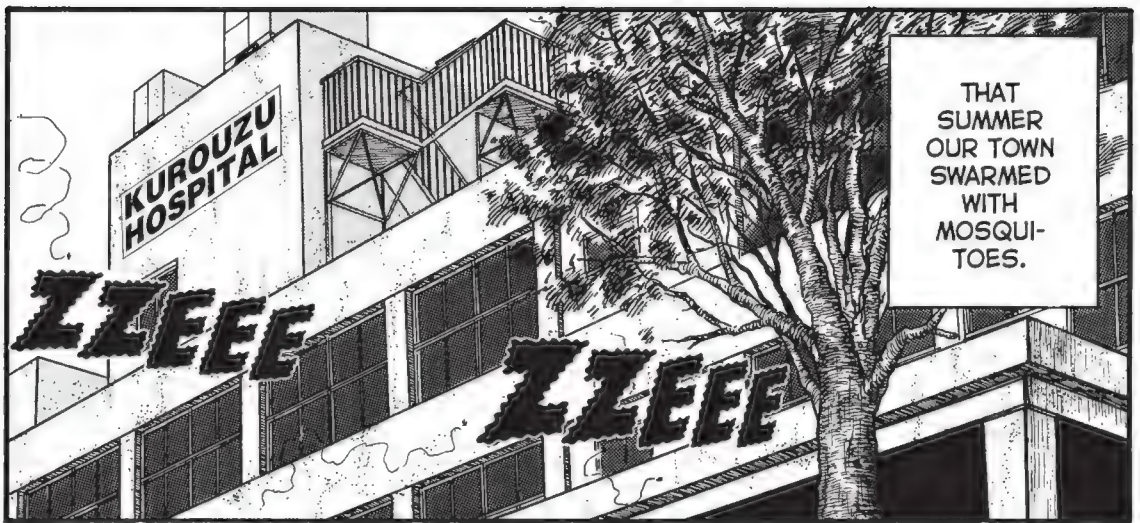
AND STILL,
EVERY
NIGHT, THE
LIGHT-
HOUSE
STREAMS
FORTH A
SWIRLING
GLOW.

CHAPTER

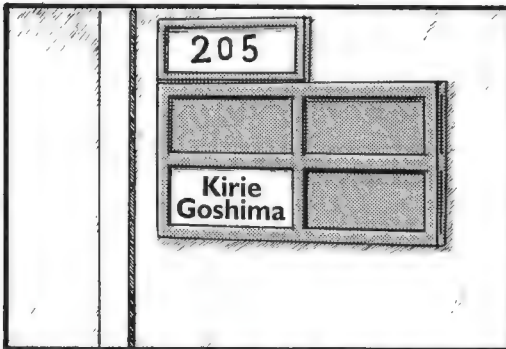
10

MOSSY-TOES





THAT
SUMMER
OUR TOWN
SWARMED
WITH
MOSQUI-
TOES.

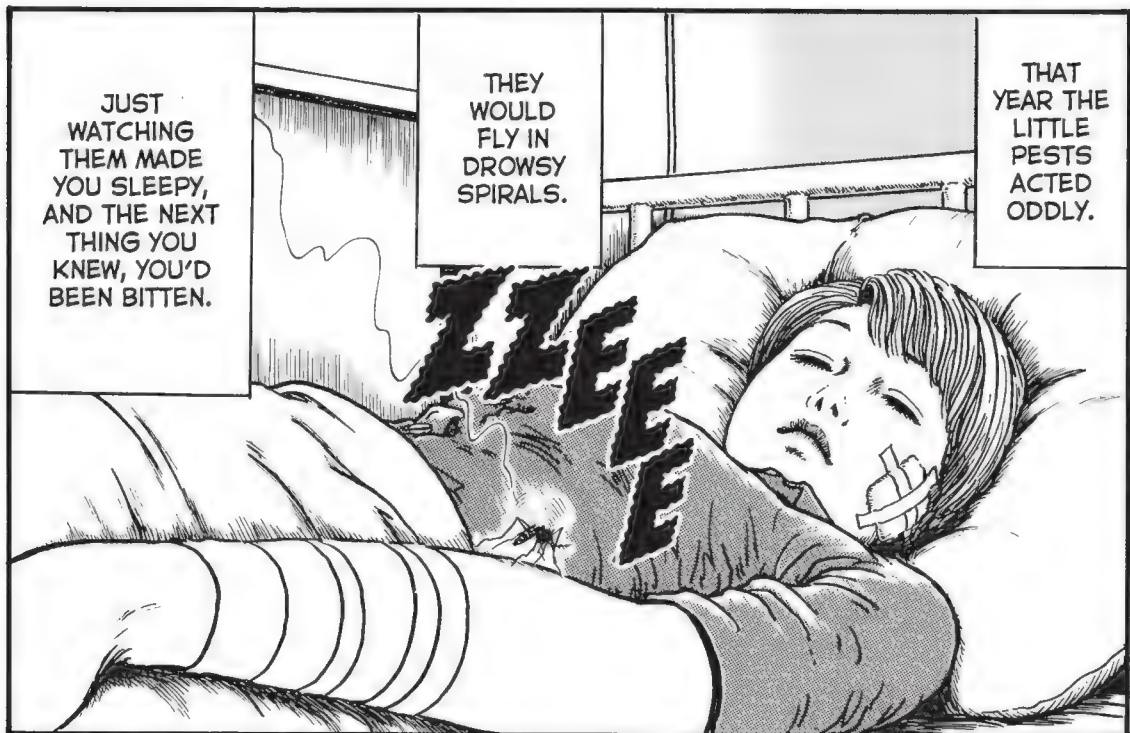
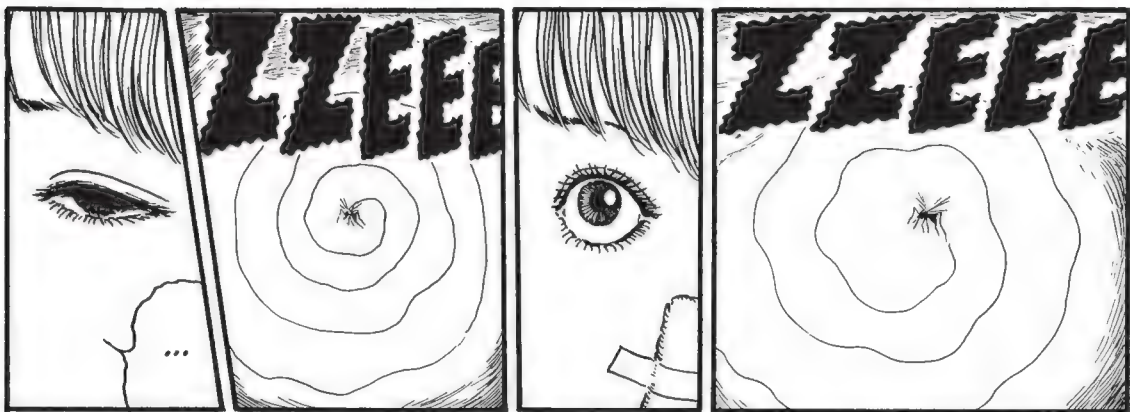


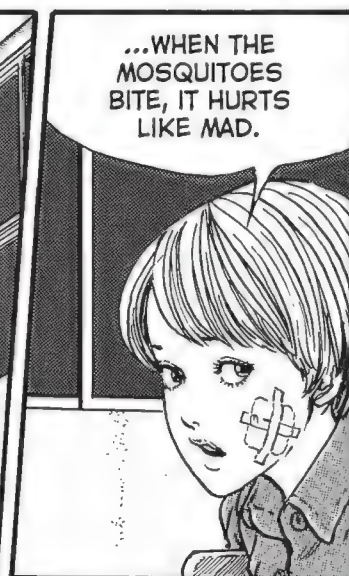
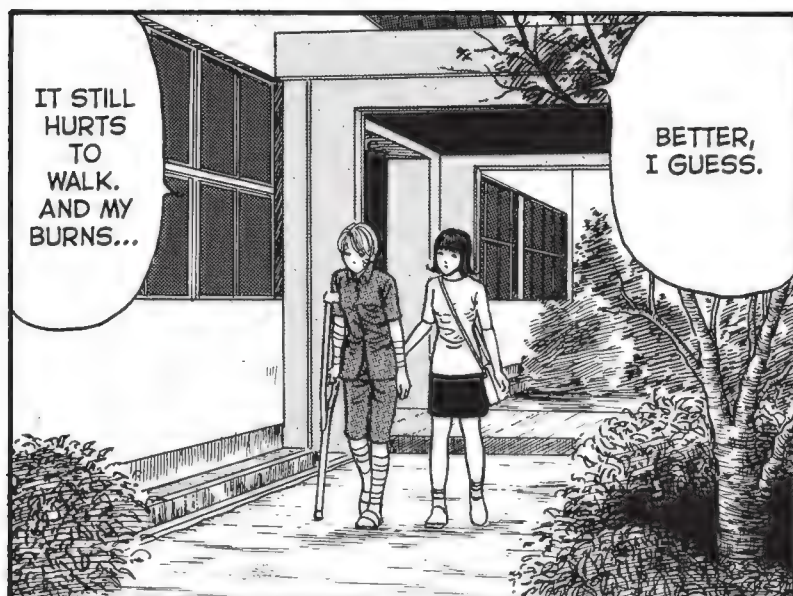
MY BROTHER
MITSUO WASN'T
HURT AS BAD,
SO HE WAS
RELEASED
AHEAD OF ME.

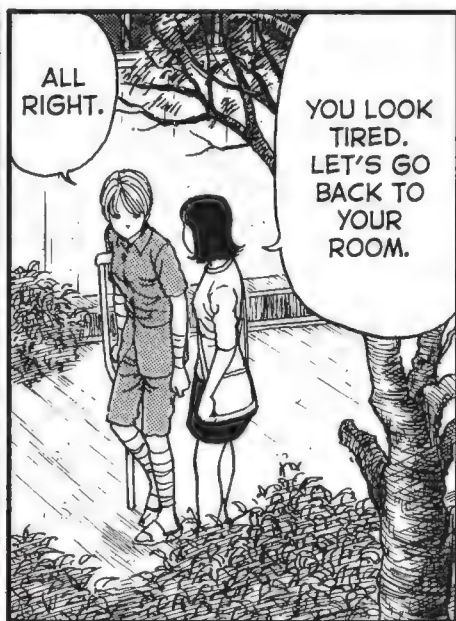
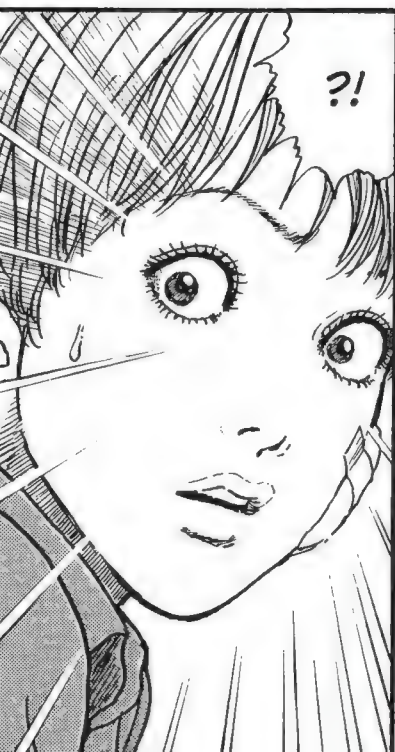
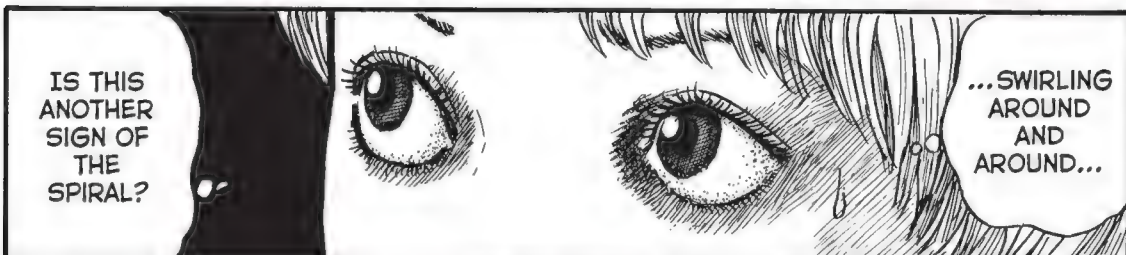
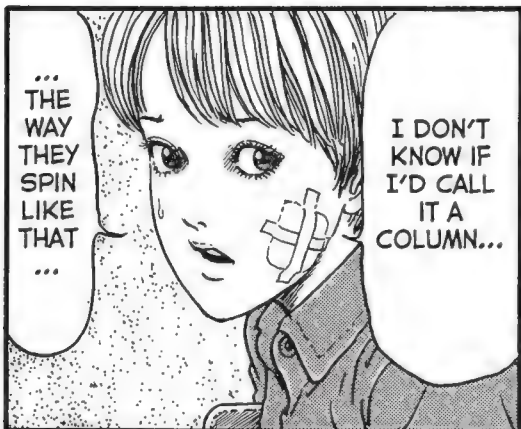
THE BURNS
AND BRUISES
I RECEIVED IN
THE LIGHT-
HOUSE WERE
UNEXPECTEDLY
SEVERE.

AS FOR ME,
I HAD TO
SPEND HALF
THE SUMMER
IN THE
HOSPITAL.



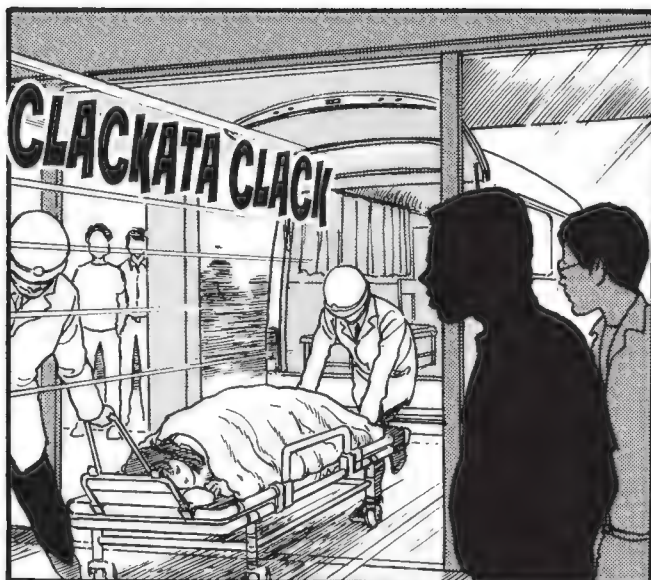


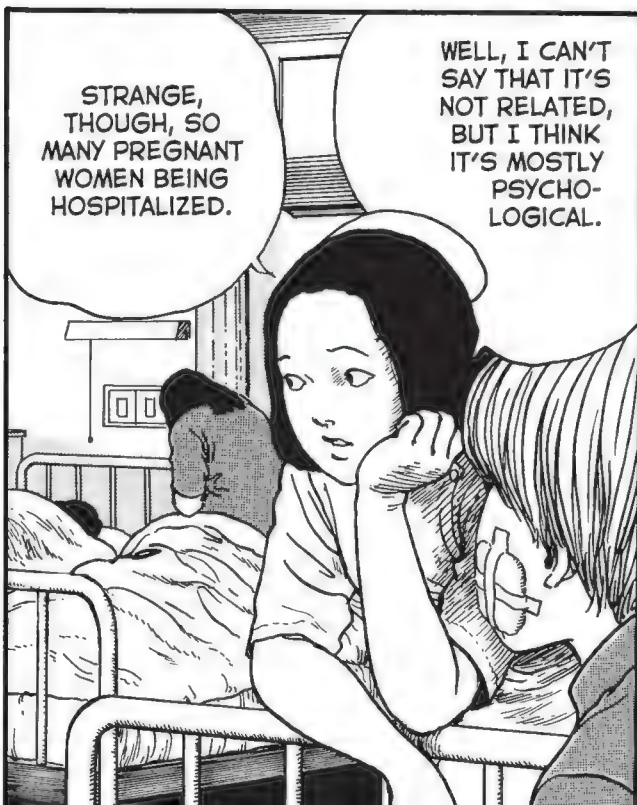
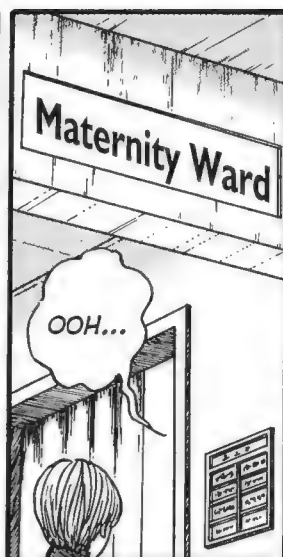
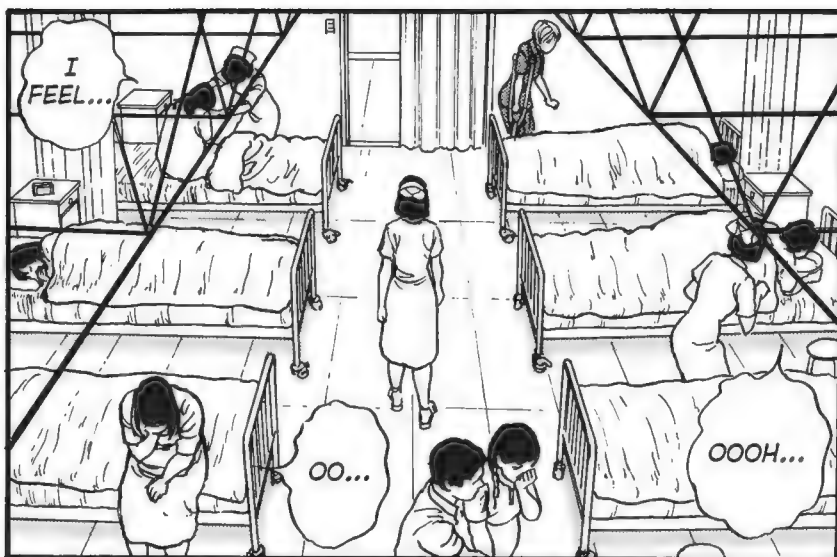


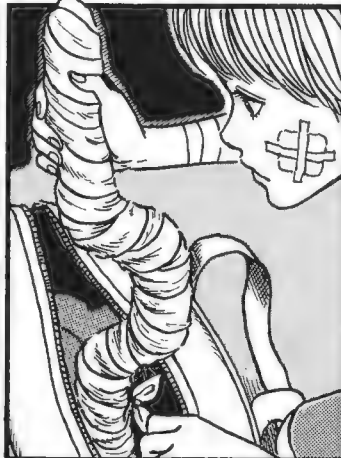
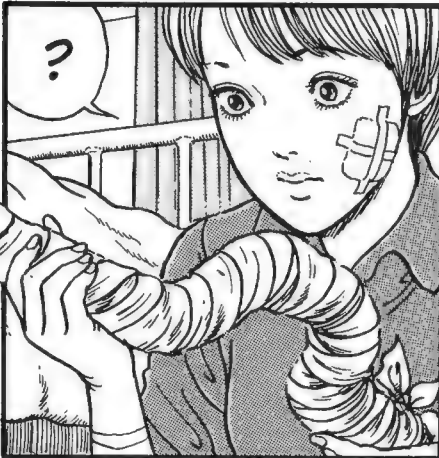
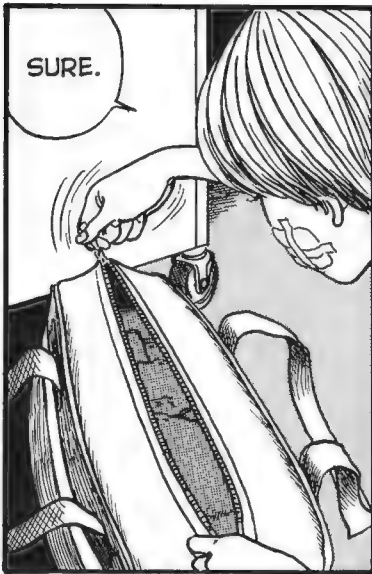




THE DISCOVERY
OF THE BODY
WAS ONLY THE
BEGINNING...



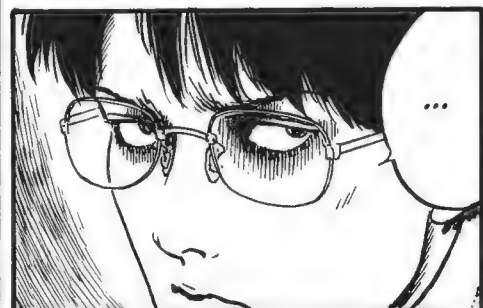
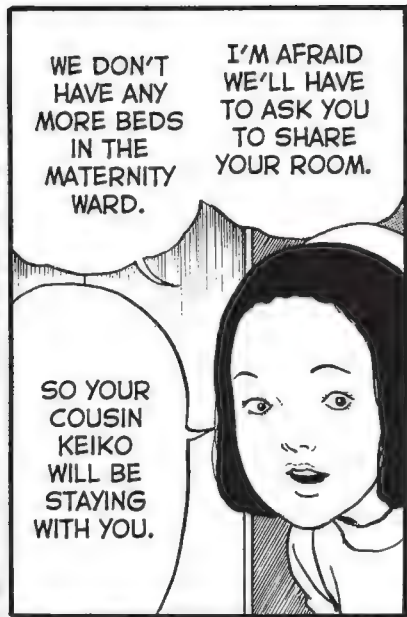
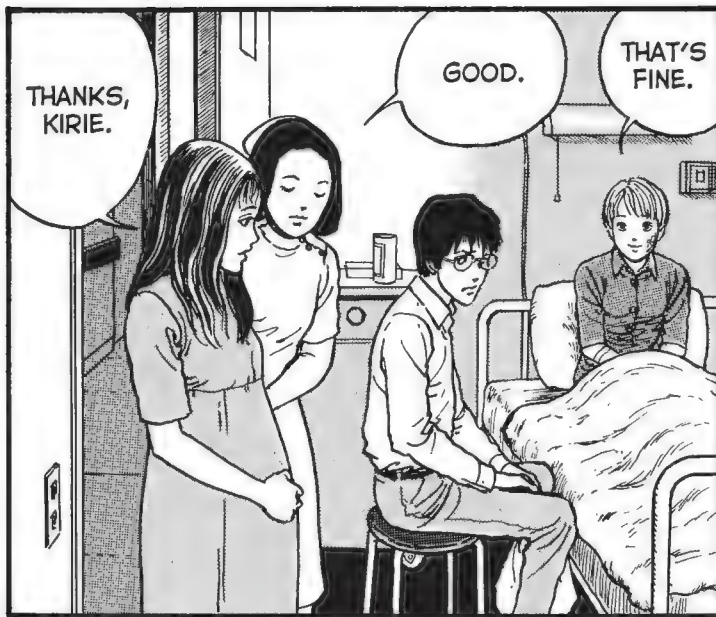


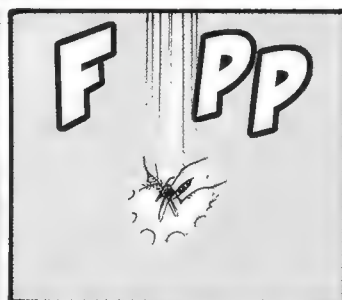
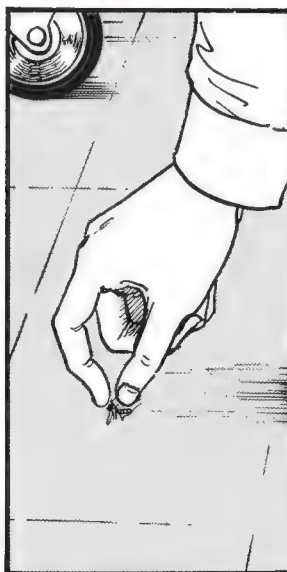










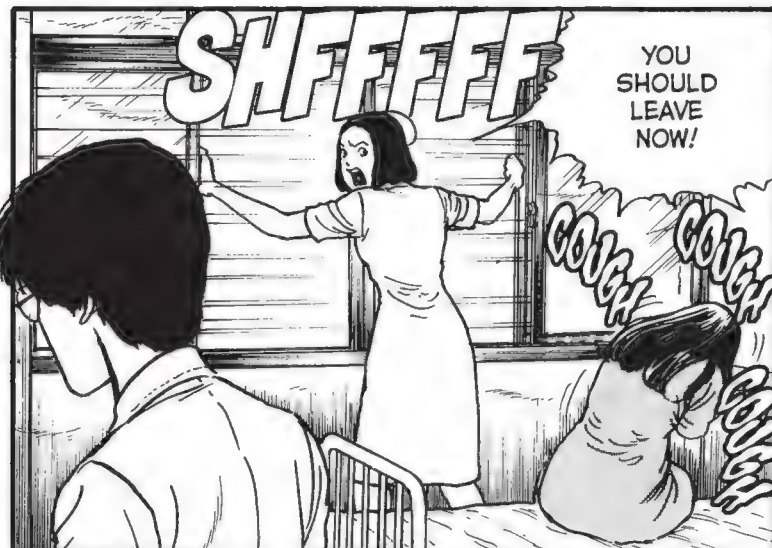




AND ONLY WHEN THEY'RE CARRYING A BATCH OF EGGS.

...THAT FEMALE MOSQUITOES ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO SUCK BLOOD?

THEY NEED THE BLOOD SO THEIR EGGS WILL DEVELOP AND...



SHFFFFF

YOU SHOULD LEAVE NOW!

COUGH COUGH



THAT SMELL!

COUGH COUGH

OPEN THE WINDOW!



I'M SORRY. HE'S BEEN STRANGE LATELY.

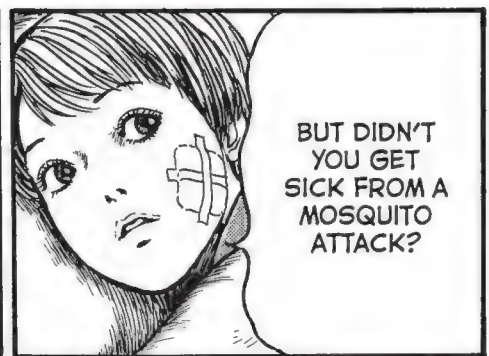
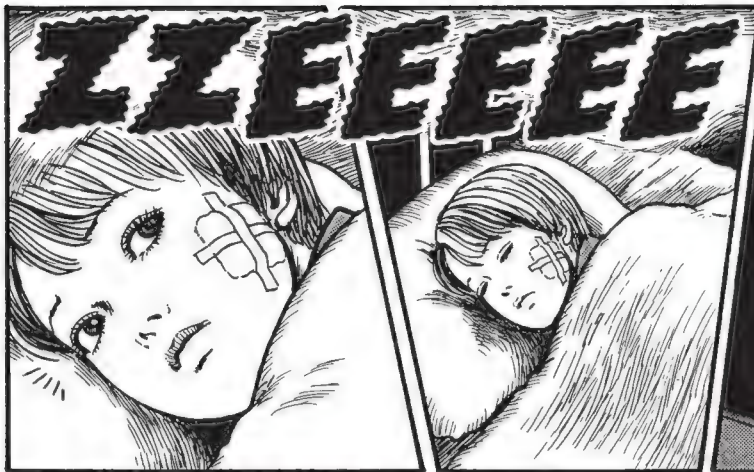
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, KEIKO?

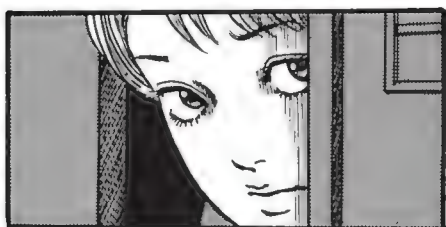
HUFF ...

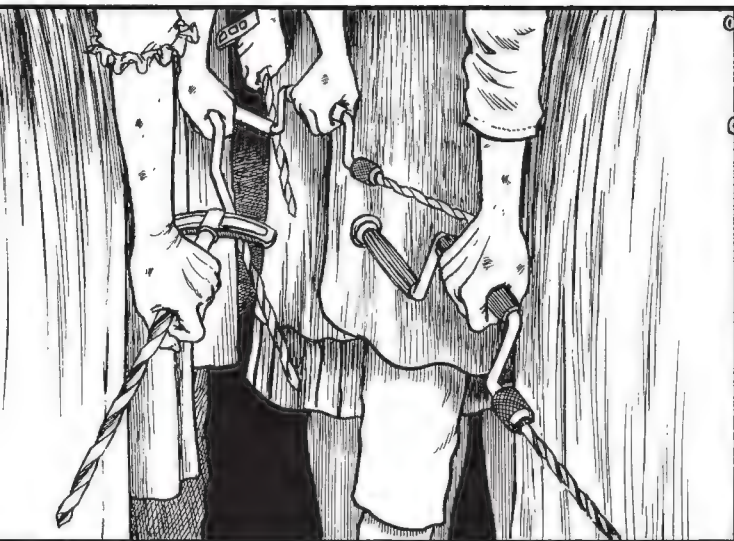
HUFF ...



NOW!



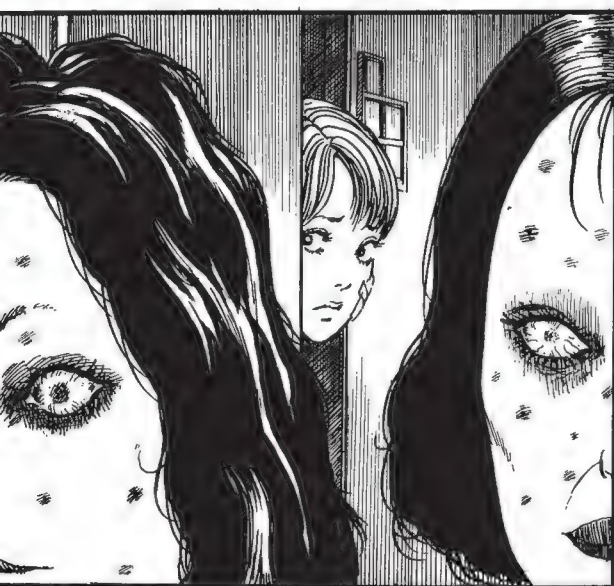
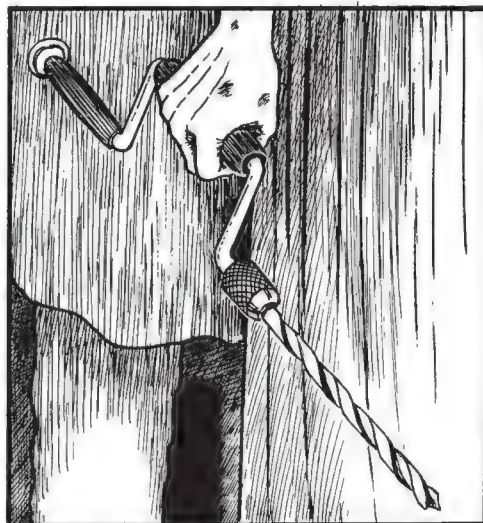
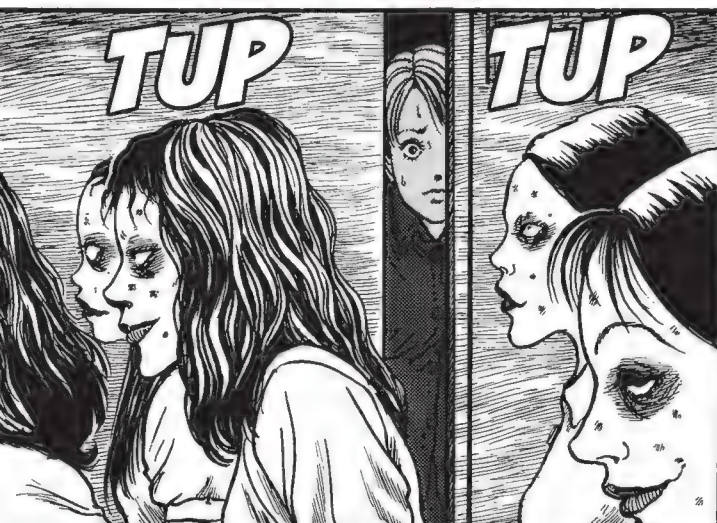




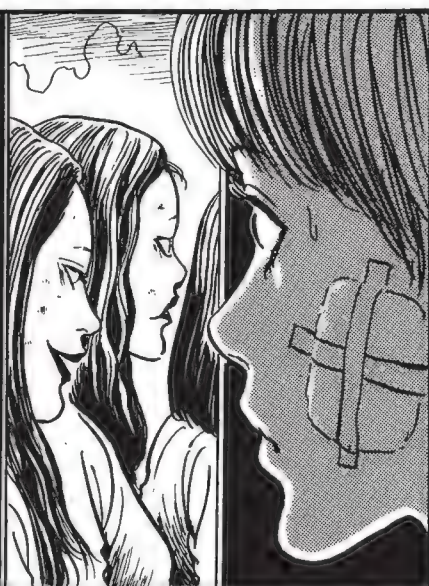
EH?!



THEY'RE
ALL FROM
THE
MATERNITY
WARD.

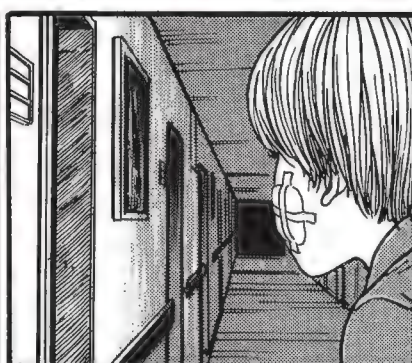
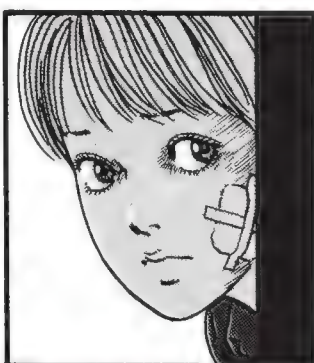
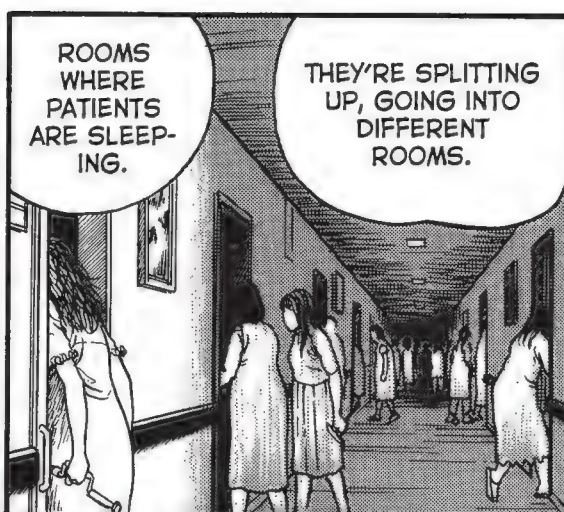


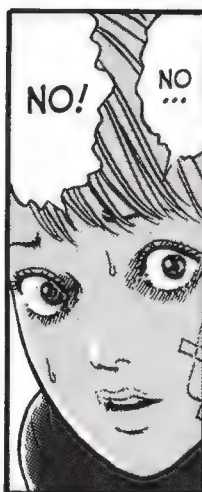
WHAT...
ARE
THEY...

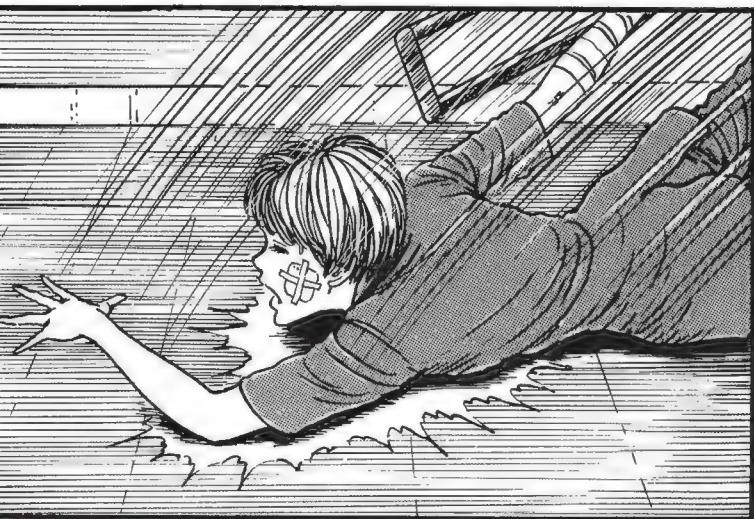
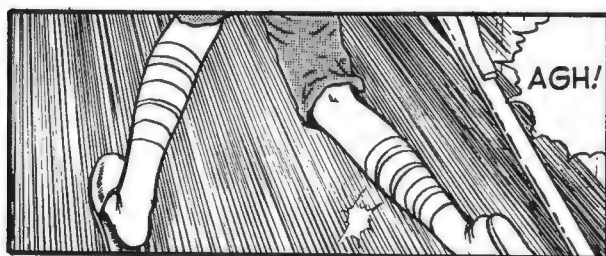
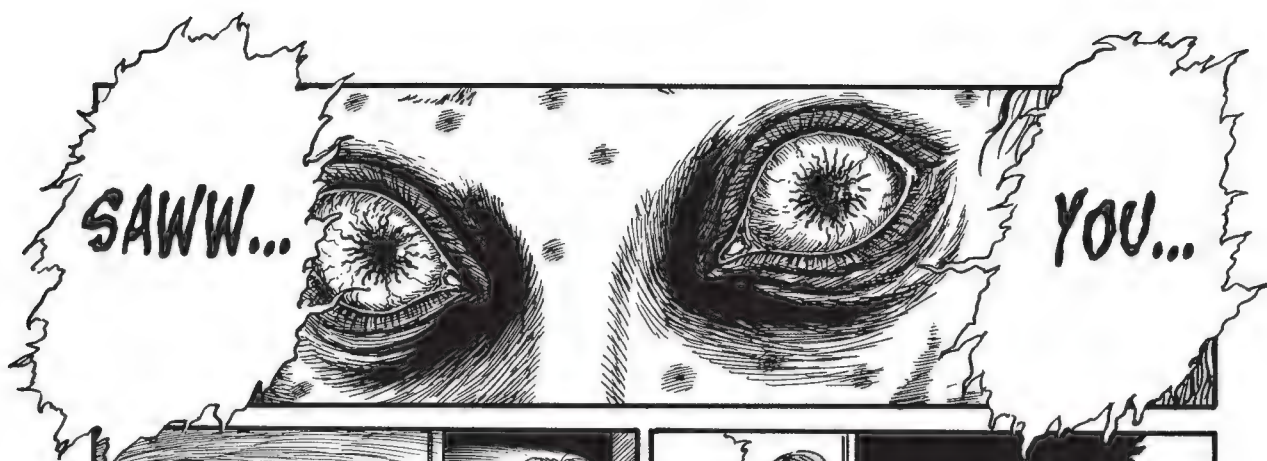


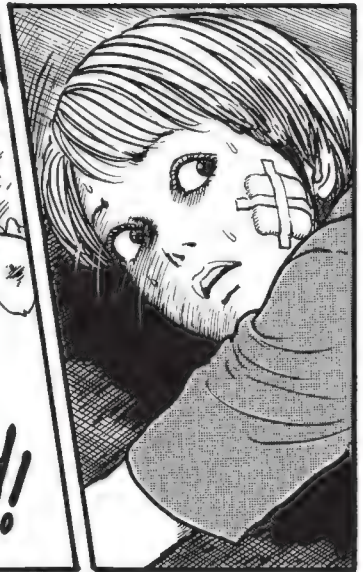


AND WHAT'S WITH THE HAND DRILLS?

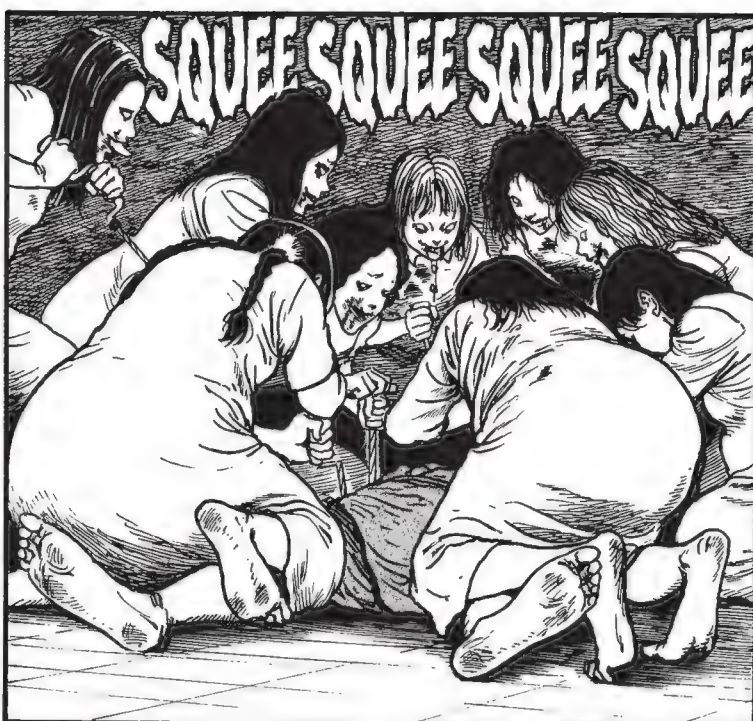


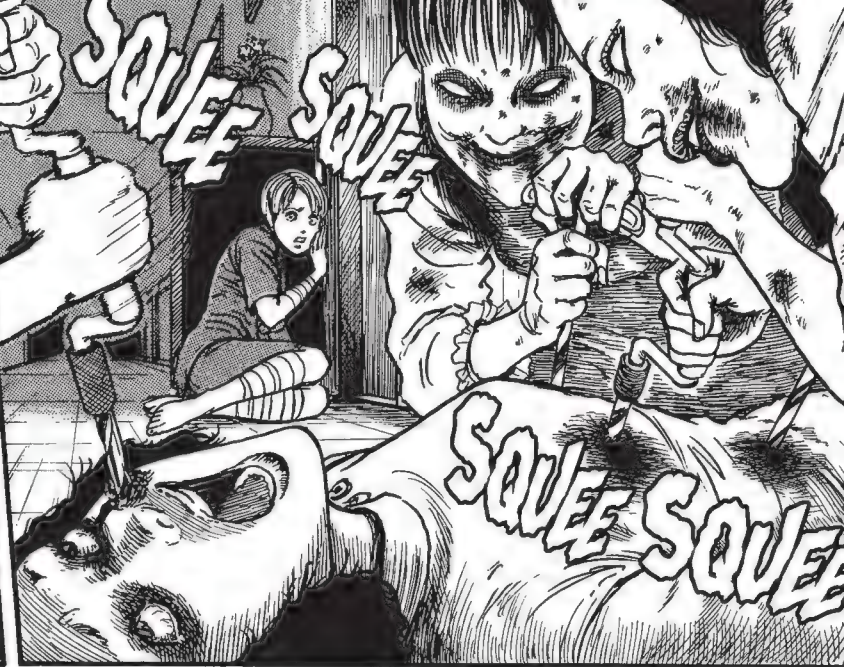
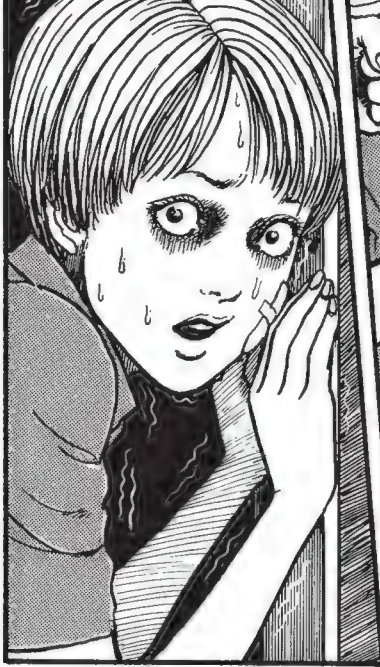


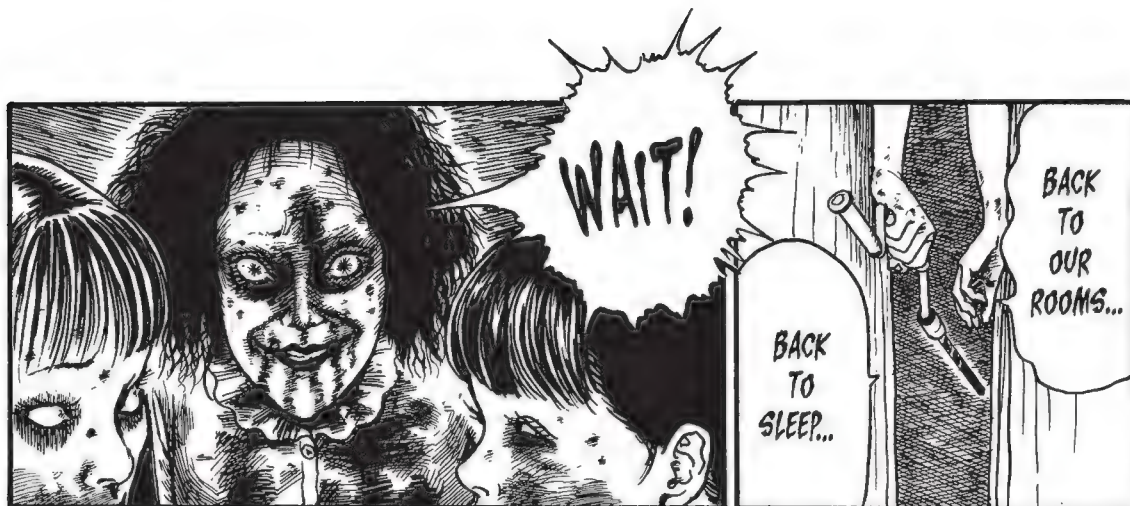


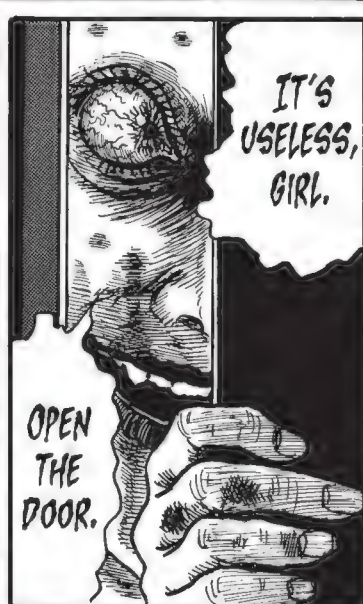
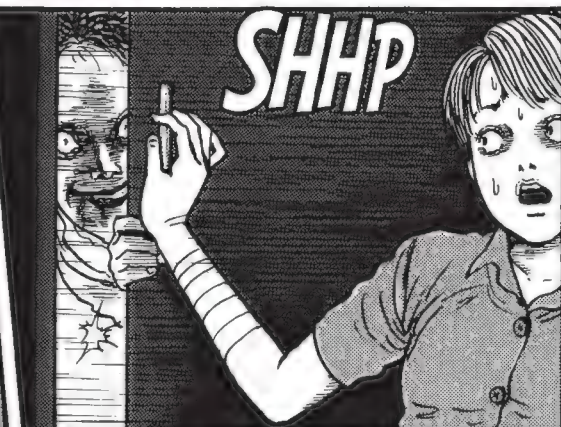
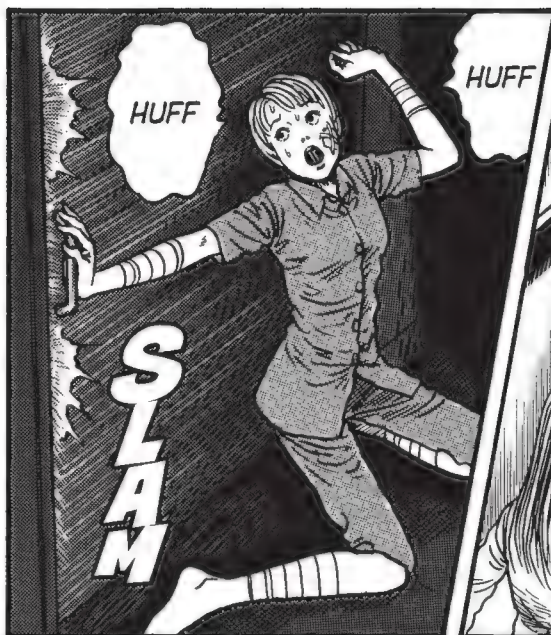


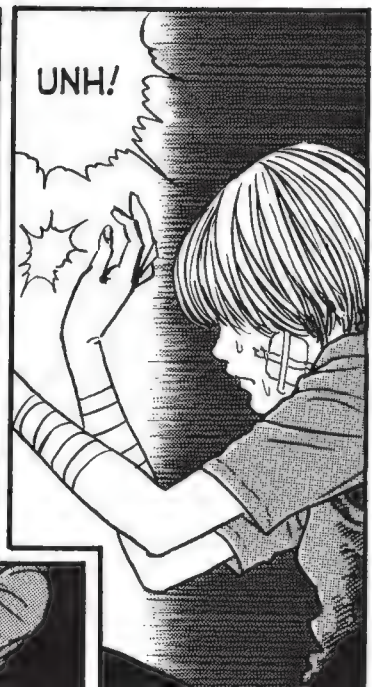
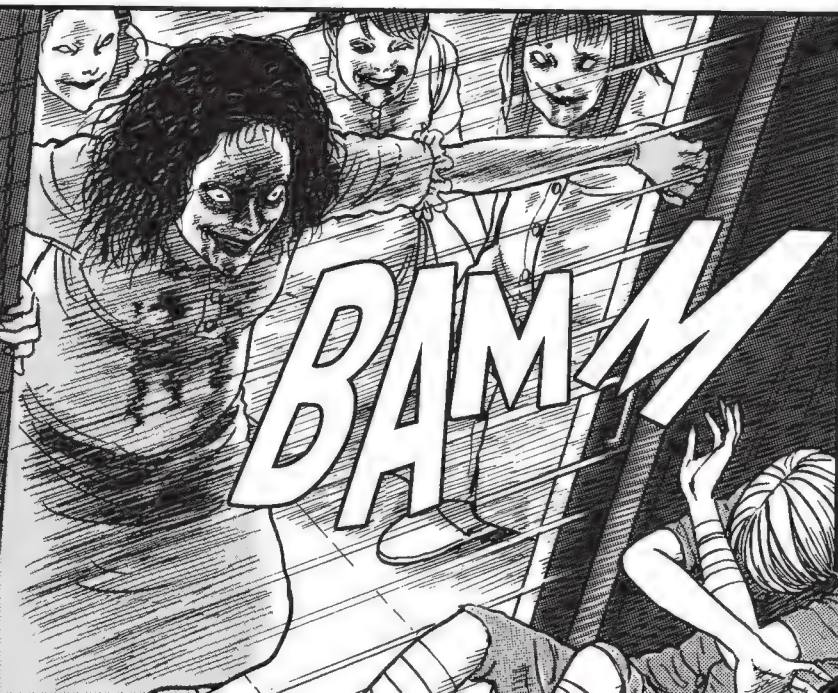
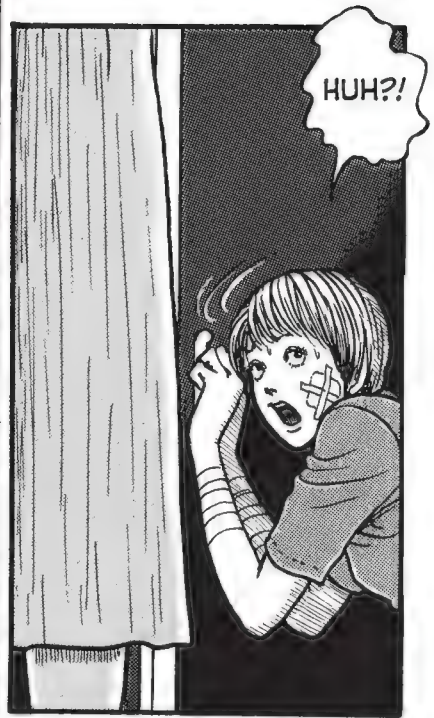
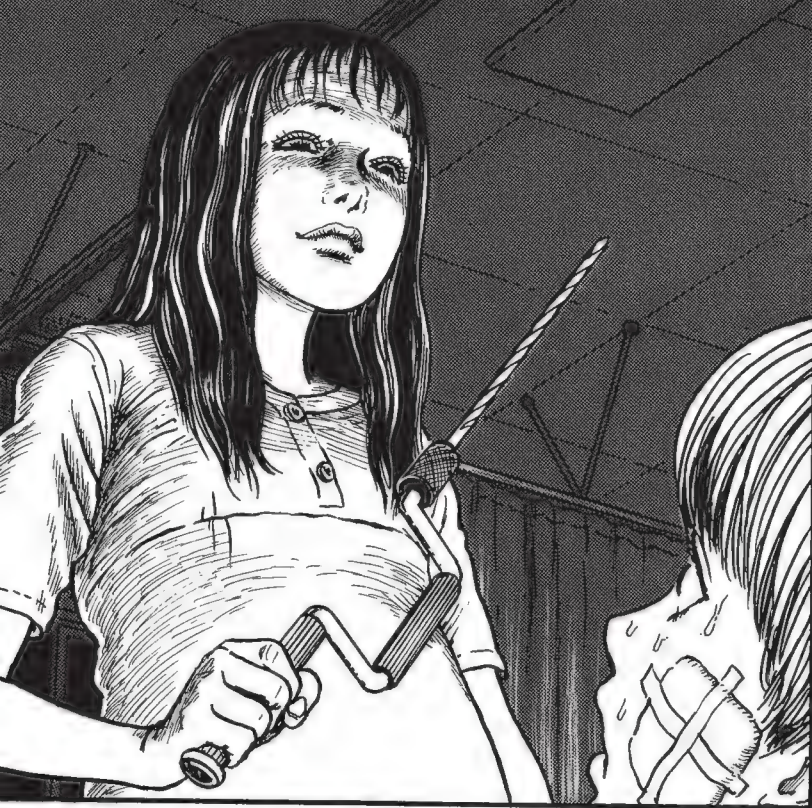


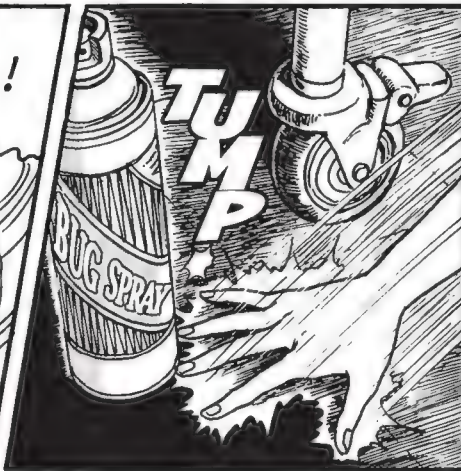
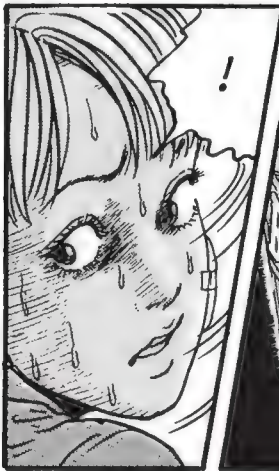
















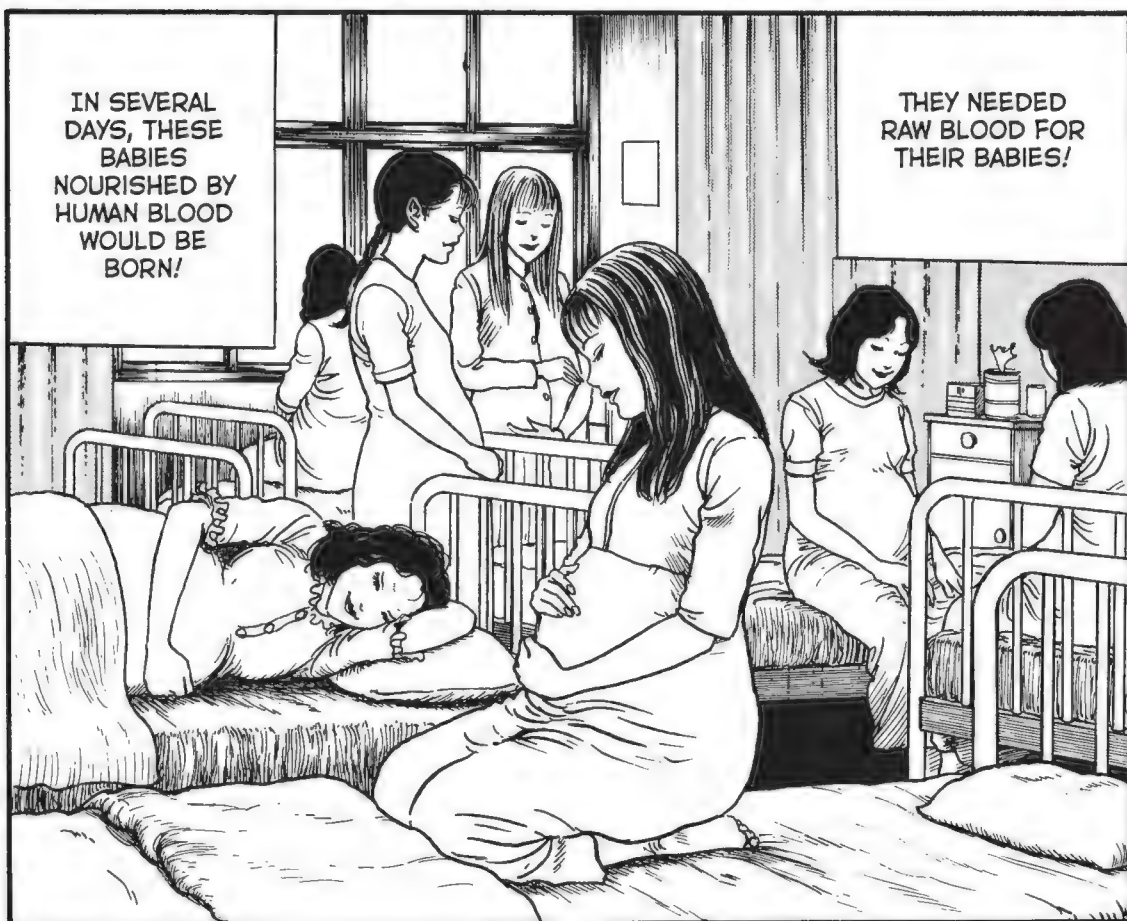
ZEEF

I
HATE
TO THINK
THEIR
HUSBANDS
TOOK
CARE
OF
THAT.

ALL
TRACES
OF THE
DRILLS
AND
BLOOD-
SOAKED
GOWNS
HAD
DISAP-
PEARED
THE NEXT
MORNING.

NO
ONE SUS-
PECTED
THE
MASSA-
CRE...

...HAD
BEEN
COMMITTED
BY
PREGNANT
WOMEN!



IN SEVERAL
DAYS, THESE
BABIES
NOURISHED BY
HUMAN BLOOD
WOULD BE
BORN!

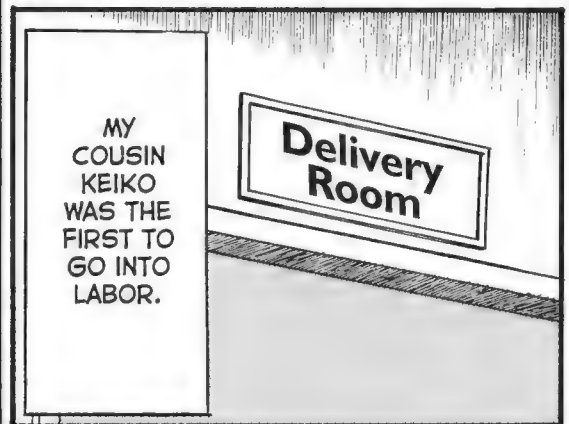
THEY NEEDED
RAW BLOOD FOR
THEIR BABIES!

CHAPTER

11

THE
UMBILICAL
CORD







...I TOLD
MY STORY
TO THE
DIRECTOR
AND DR.
KAWAMOTO,
THE HEAD
OF THE
MATERNITY
WARD.



AFTER
THE NIGHT
OF THE
MASSA-
CRE...



MISS
GO-
SHIMA...
YOU
JUST
HAD A
BAD
DREAM.



IT'S TRUE!
THOSE WOMEN
DID IT!
IF WE
DON'T DO
SOMETHING,
THEY'LL KILL
AGAIN!



...THE
MORE
THEY
LOOKED
AT ME
LIKE I WAS
CRAZY.



THE
MORE I
TRIED
TO MAKE
THEM
LISTEN...



I WAS
ALONE.

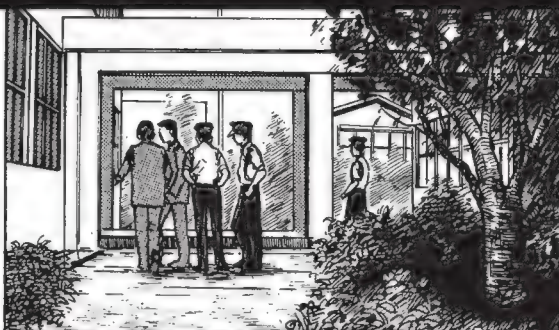


HOW COULD
YOU ACCUSE
KEIKO OF
DOING SUCH A
HORRIBLE
THING?!

KIRIE!
THAT'S
RIDICULOUS!!

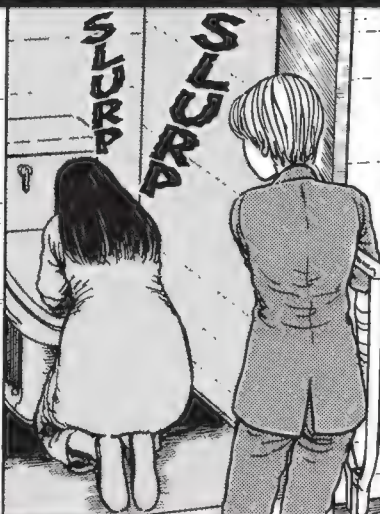
EVEN
MY
FAMILY
...

PERHAPS DUE
TO THE
MOUNTING
POLICE
INVESTIGATION,
THERE WERE NO
OTHER ATTACKS.



OF COURSE,
THE PATIENTS
WERE ALL
TERRIFIED
BECAUSE THE
MURDERER WAS
NEVER FOUND.

...COMING
FROM
THE
BATHROOM,
AND
CAUGHT
ONE
FEEDING.

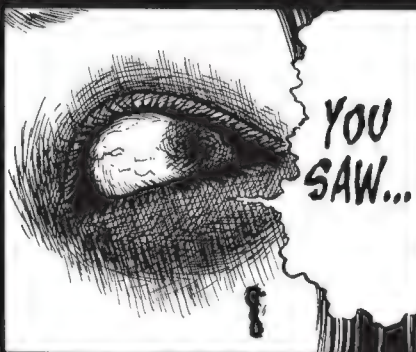


ONCE
I
HEARD A
STRANGE
SOUND...

EH?

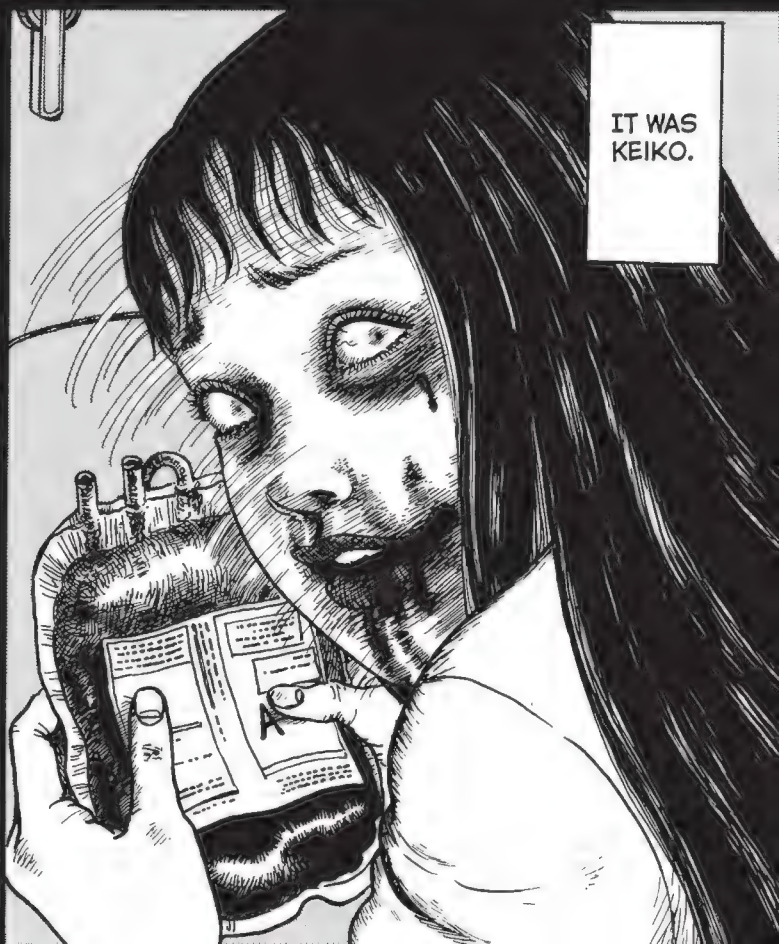
THEY
STILL
DRANK
BLOOD IN
SECRET.

BUT
IT
WASN'T
OVER.



YOU
SAW...

!!-A-A-M

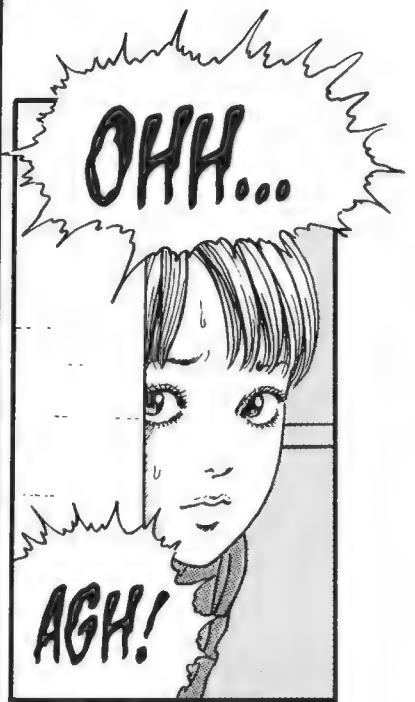


IT WAS
KEIKO.



EEAAEEAAH...

AAGH!



OHH...

AGH!



AHHH...

URGGGH...



ONE
MORE
PUSH!

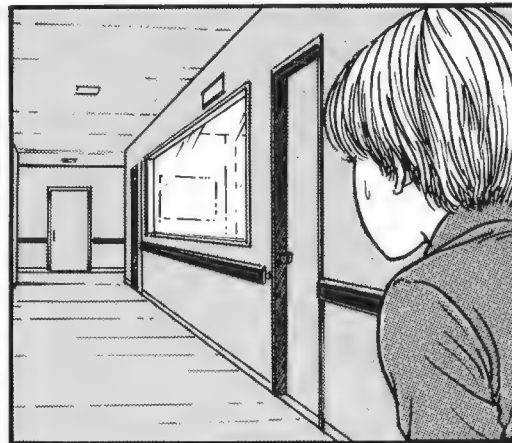
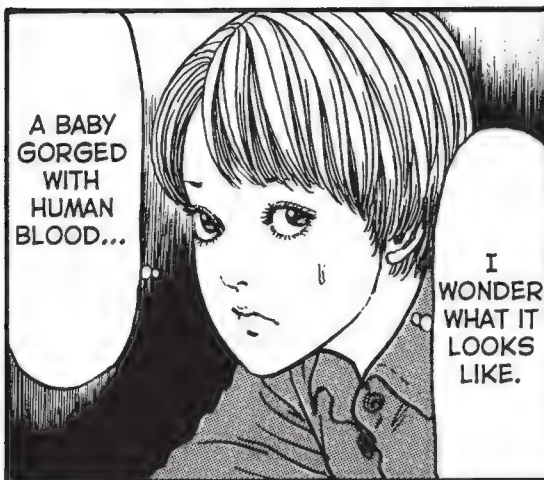


WAAAH...

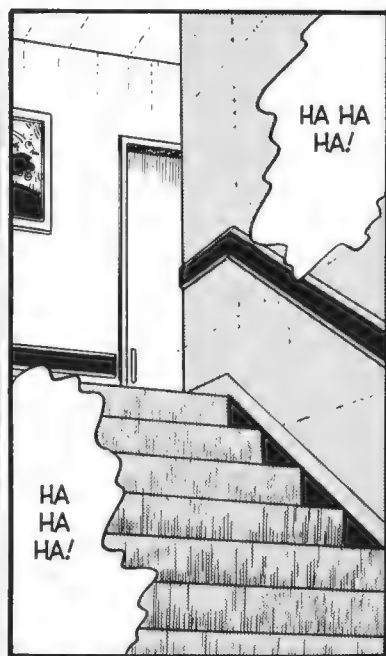
WAAAH...

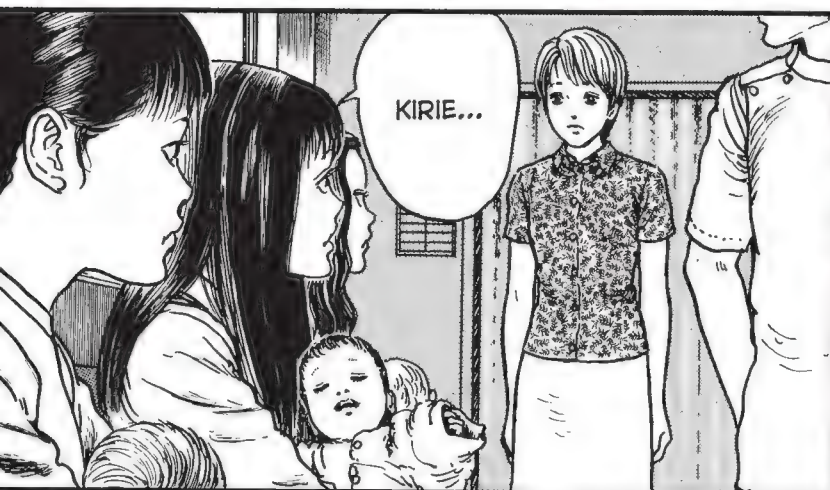


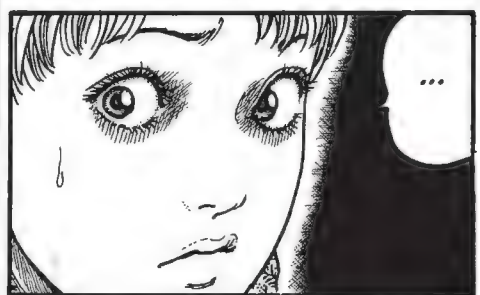
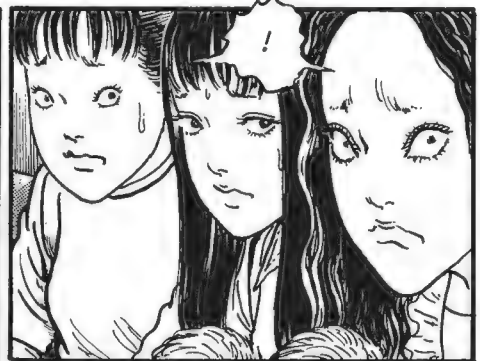
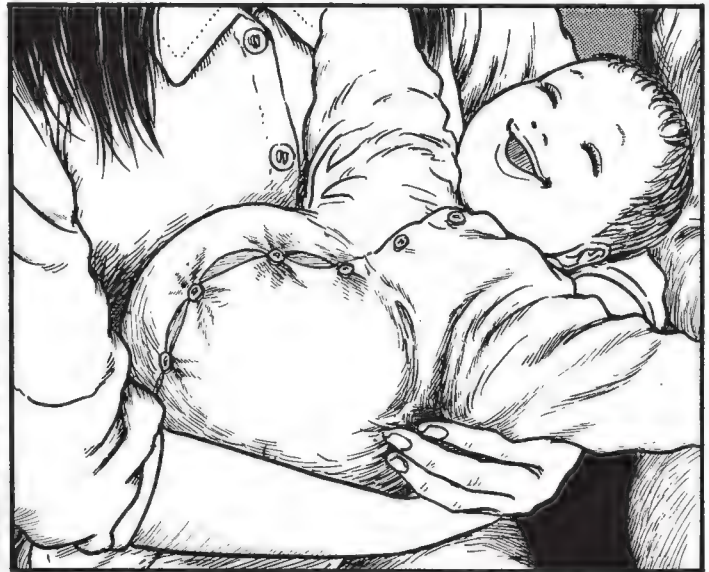
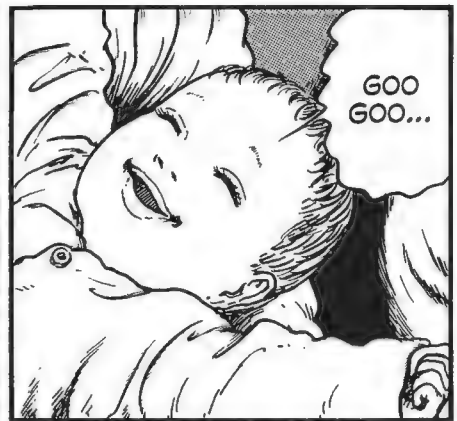
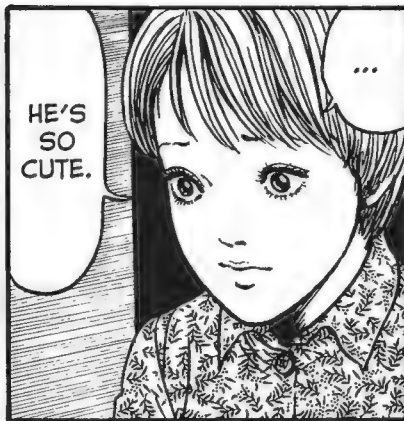
WAAAH...

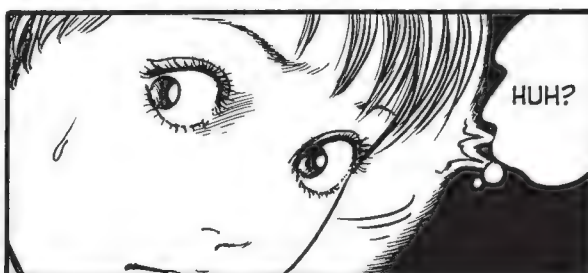
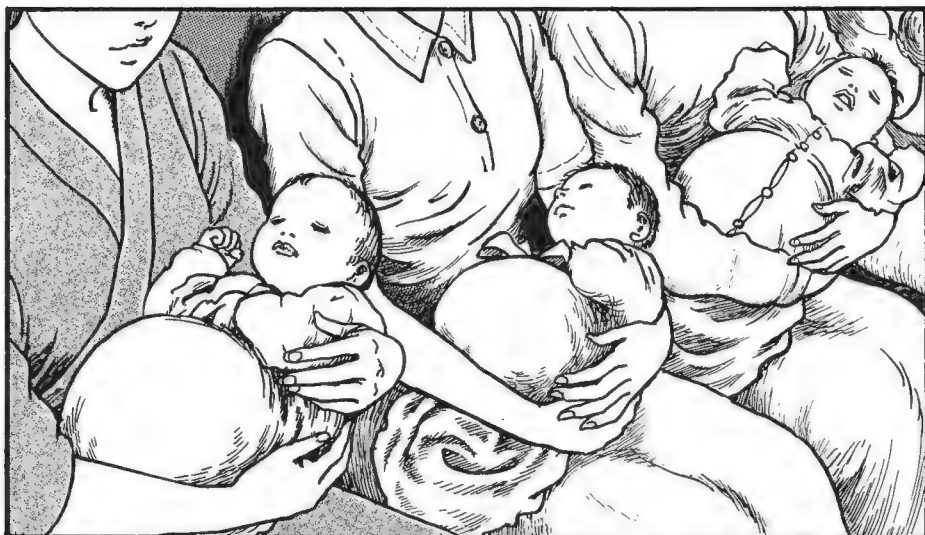




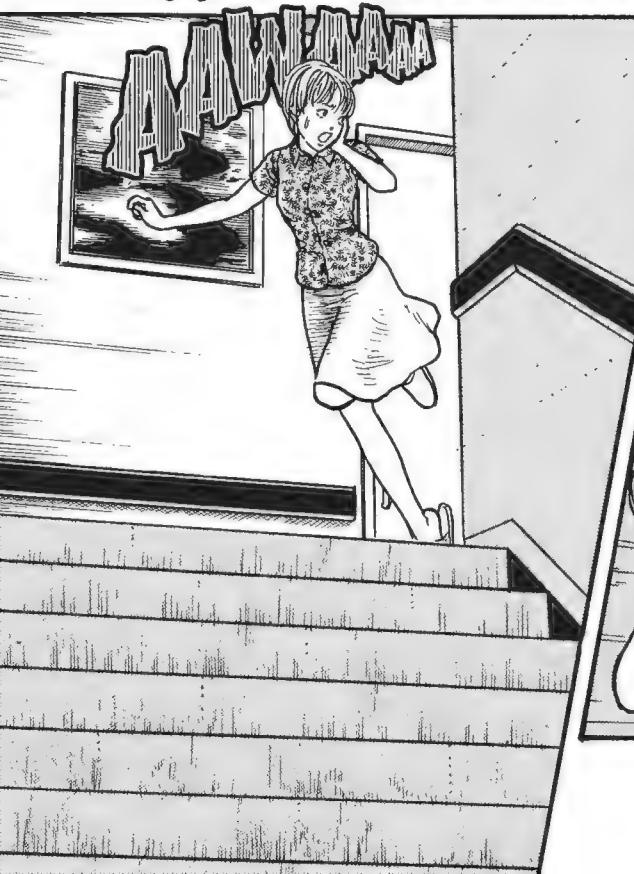
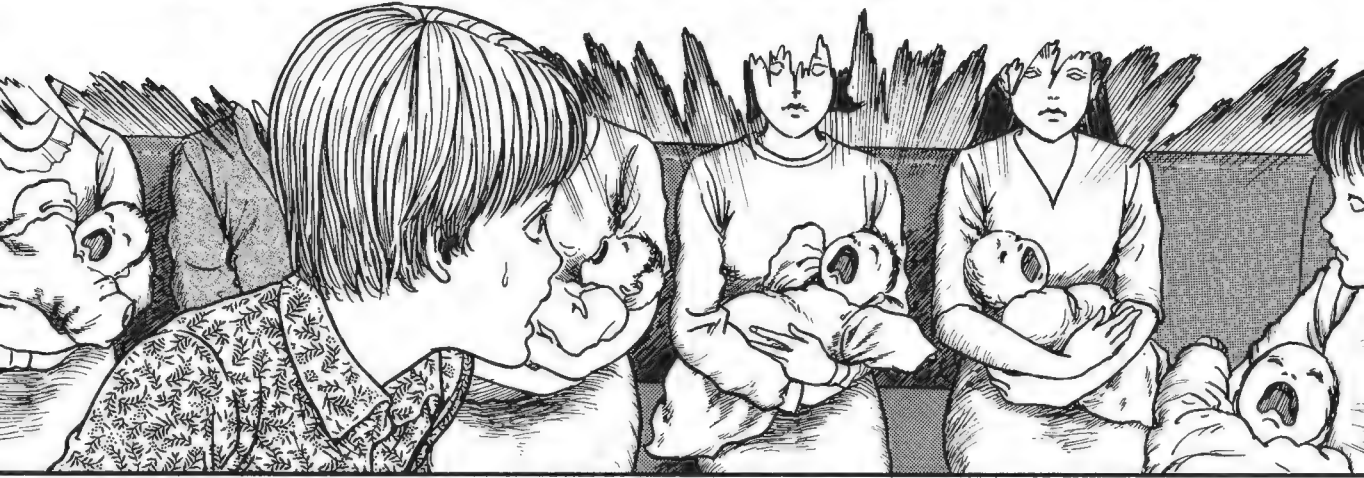


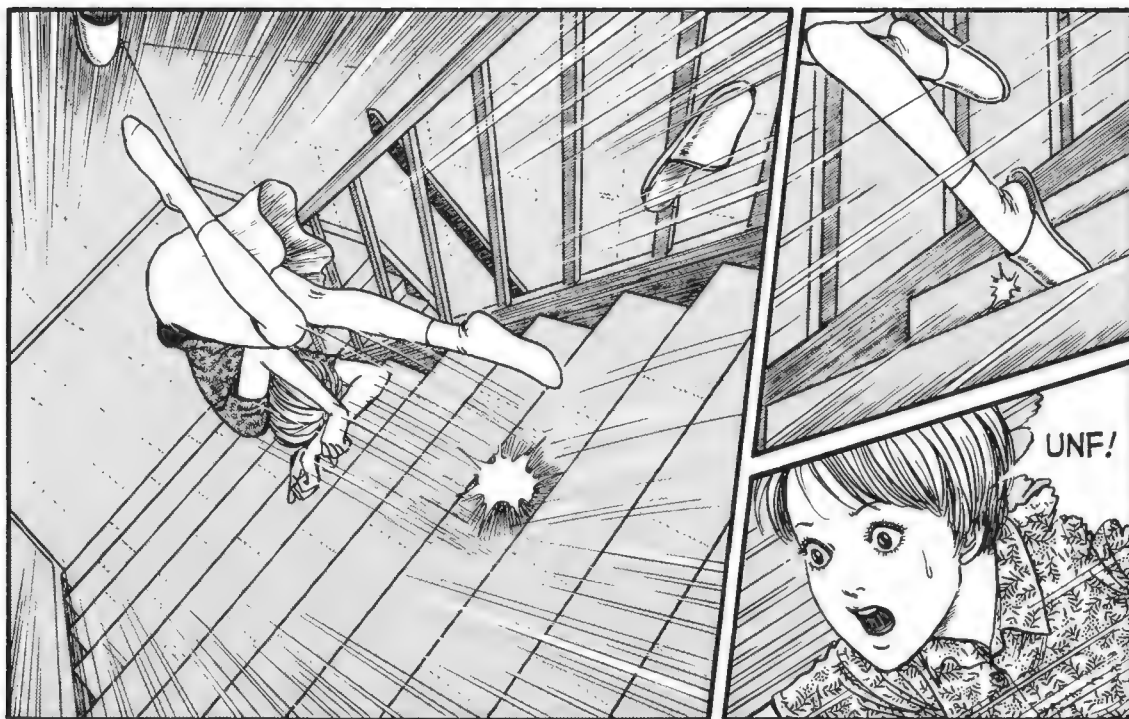




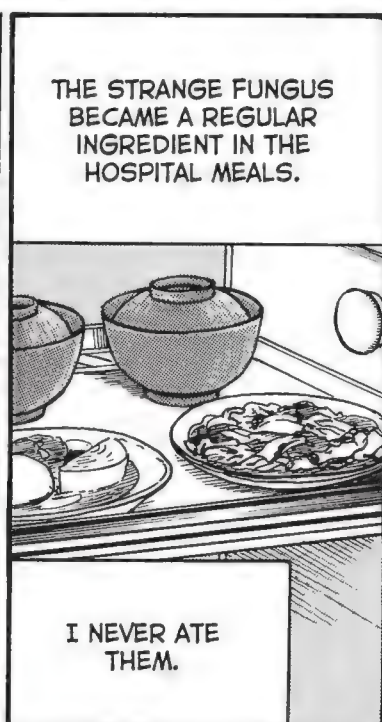
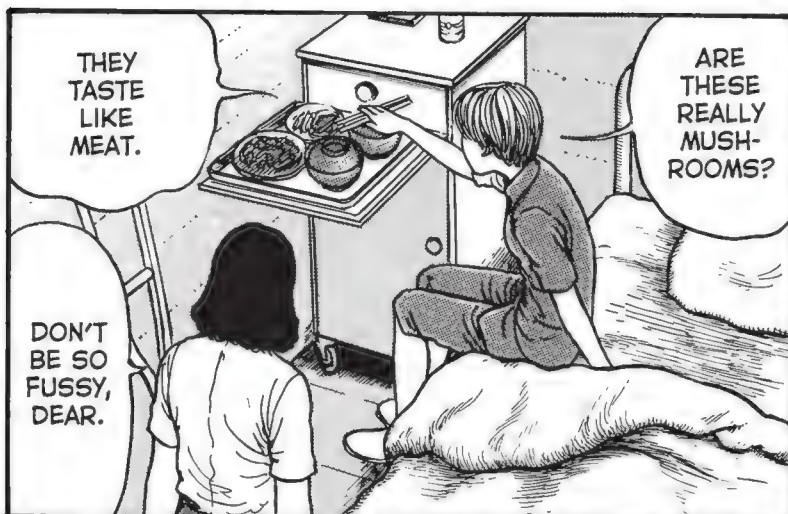
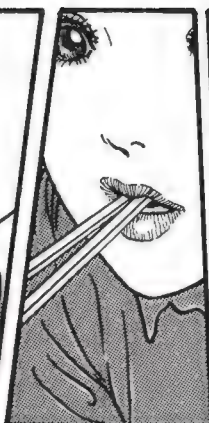


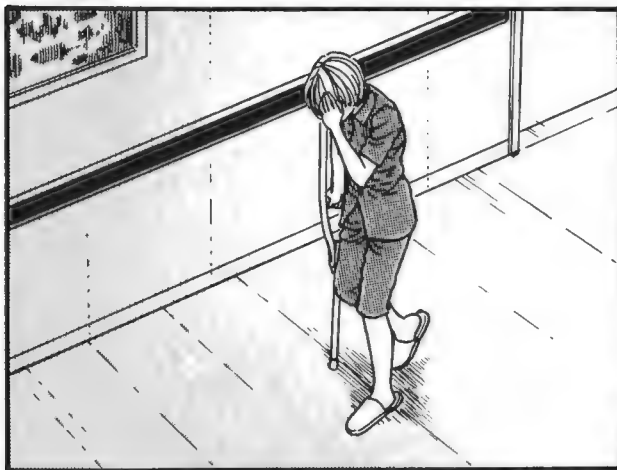
AAAWAAAA!

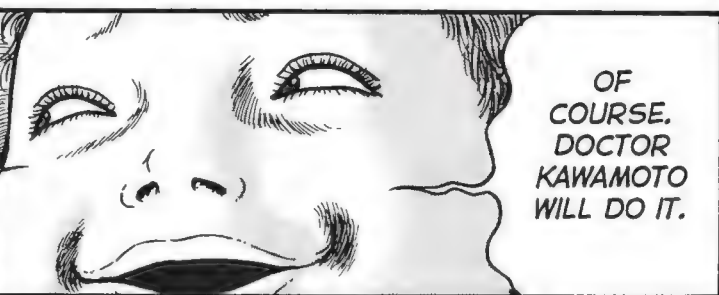


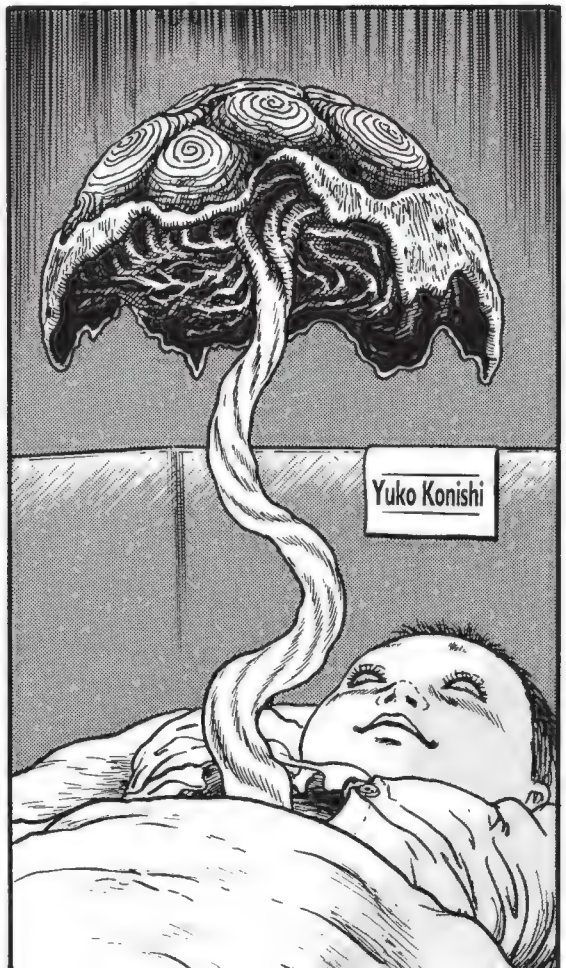
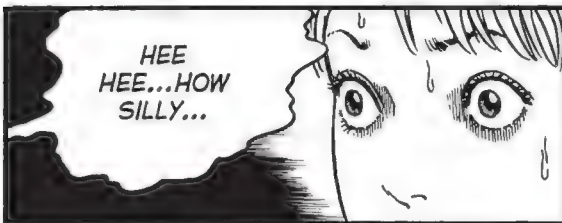
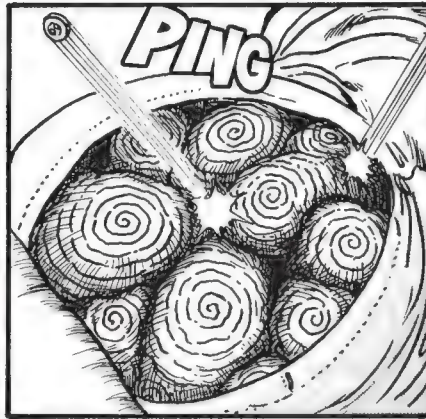
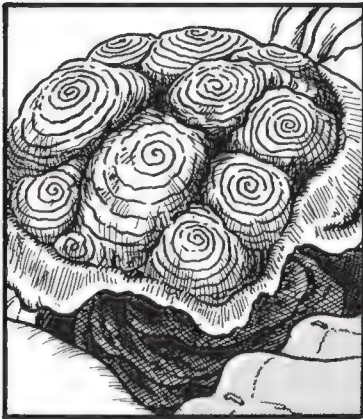


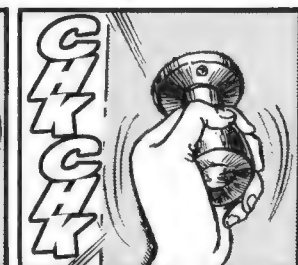
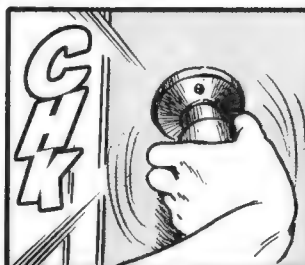
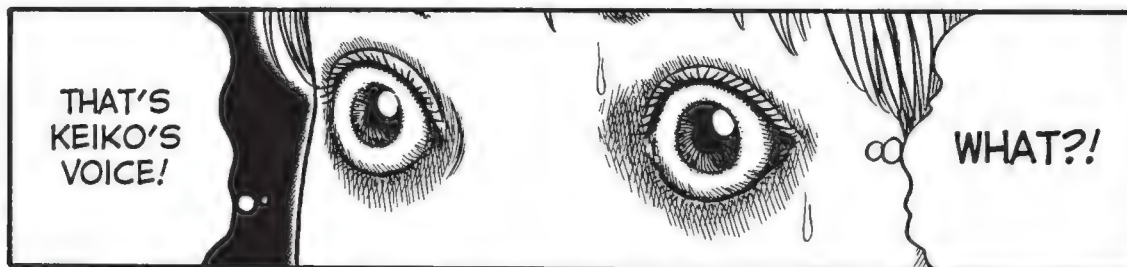




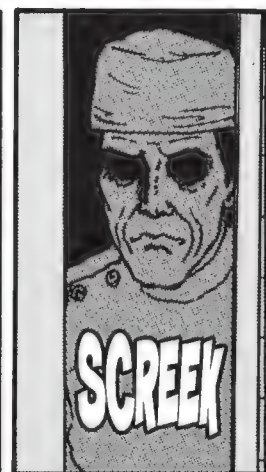
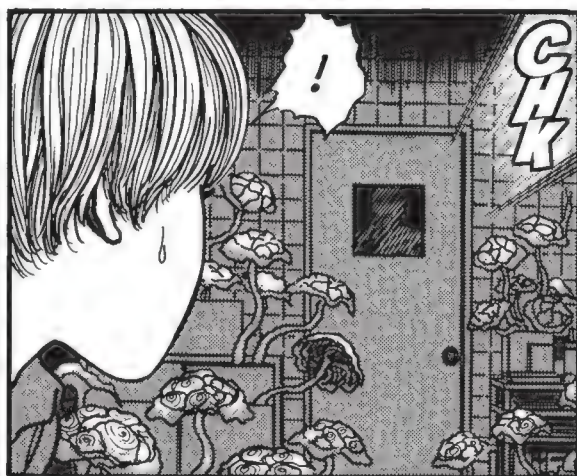
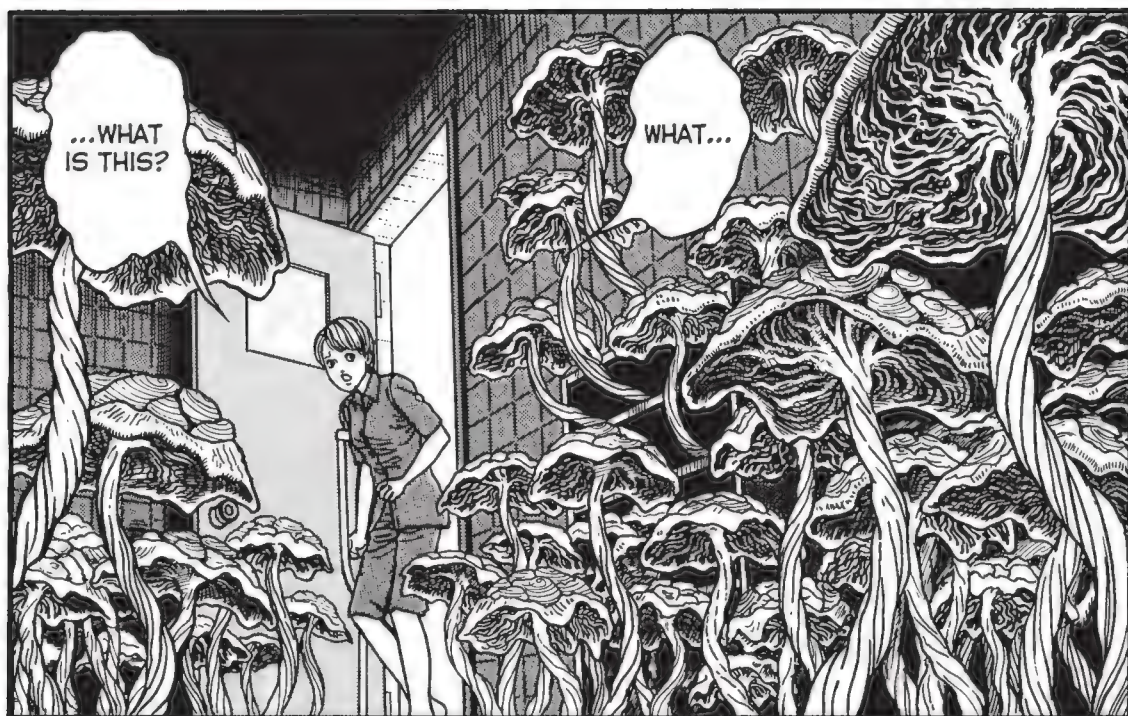


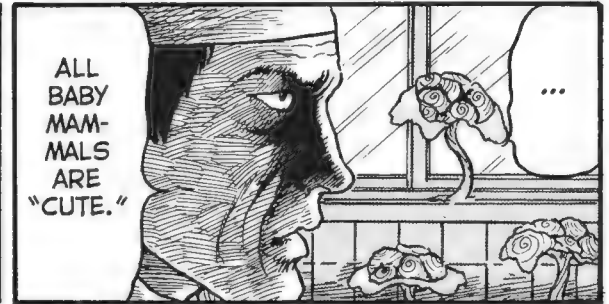
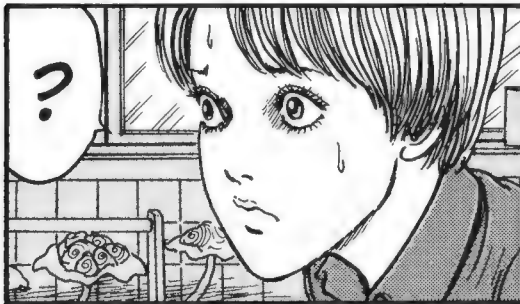
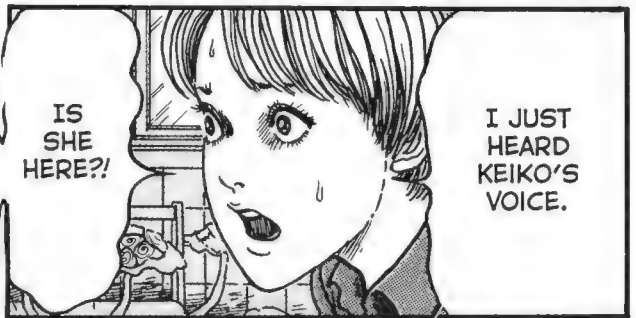












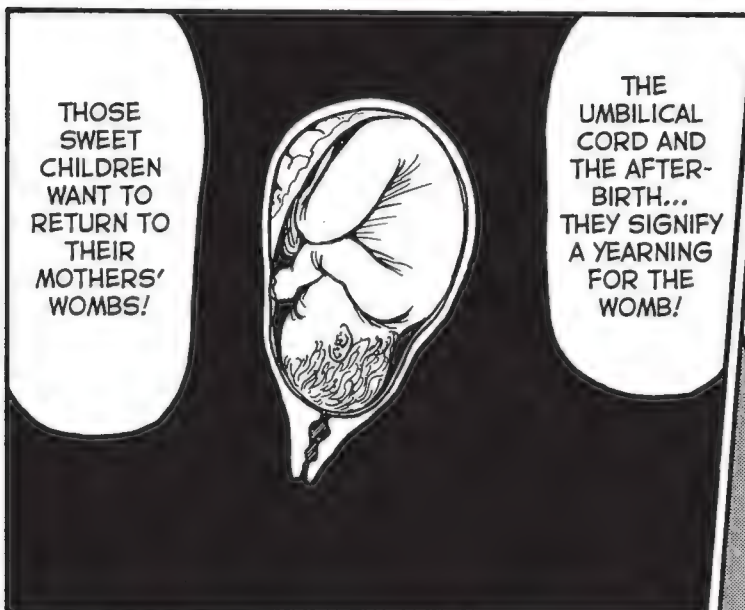


THE
PROOF
IS...



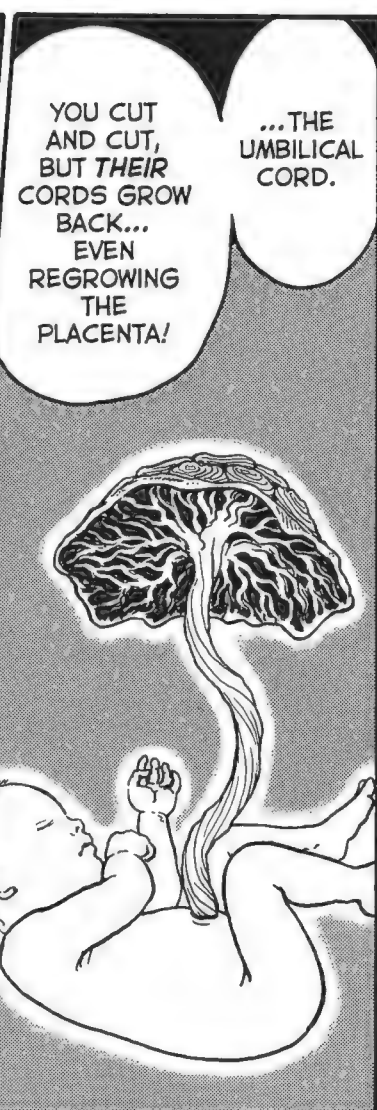
BUT NOT *THEM*...
NOT ONLY DO
THEY NOT
WANT TO BE
INDEPENDENT...
THEY WANT
TO BE BABIES...
NO, THEY
WANT TO
BE FETUSES
FOREVER.

BUT THE
CHILD
EVENTUALLY
GROWS UP
AND
BECOMES
INDEPENDENT.



THOSE
SWEET
CHILDREN
WANT TO
RETURN TO
THEIR
MOTHERS'
WOMBS!

THE
UMBILICAL
CORD AND
THE AFTER-
BIRTH...
THEY SIGNIFY
A YEARNING
FOR THE
WOMB!



YOU CUT
AND CUT,
BUT *THEIR*
CORDS GROW
BACK...
EVEN
REGROWING
THE
PLACENTA!

...THE
UMBILICAL
CORD.



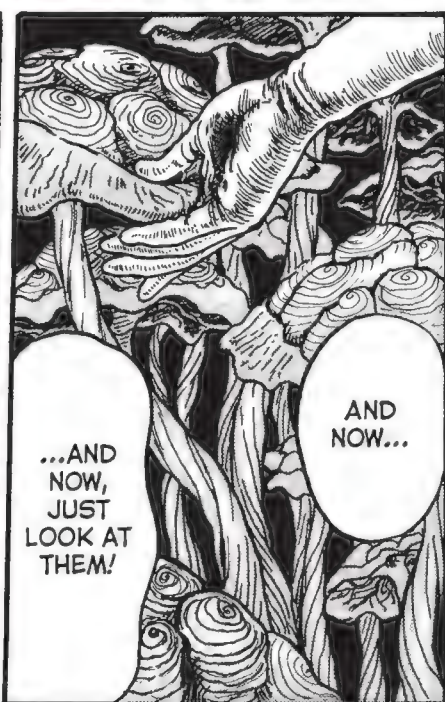
THEY'RE
NOT
MUSH-
ROOMS.

UH
HUH
...



...THESE
MUSH-
ROOMS...

THEN
...



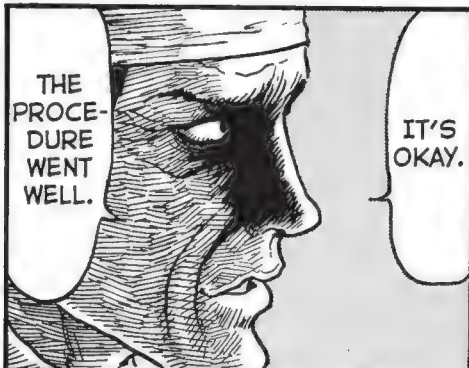


YES...THE
MOTHER AND
CHILD ARE IN
THAT ROOM.



D-
DOCTOR
...

...IS
KEIKO IN
THERE?



THE
PROCEDURE
WENT
WELL.

IT'S
OKAY.

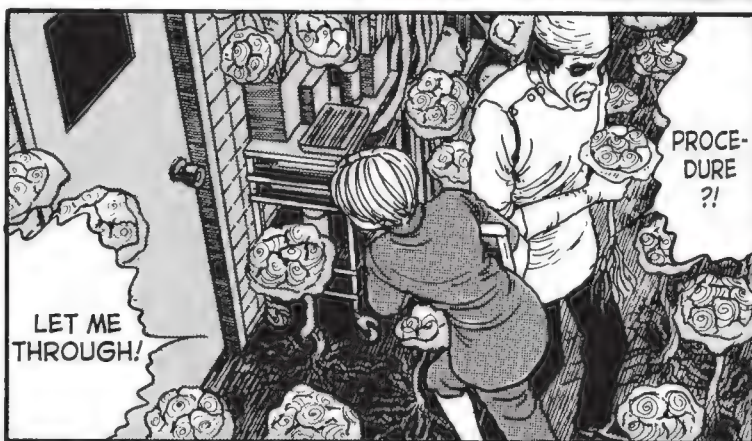


I HEARD
SCREAM-
ING!

WHAT...WHAT
IN THE WORLD
DID YOU DO
TO THEM?!



AHH!



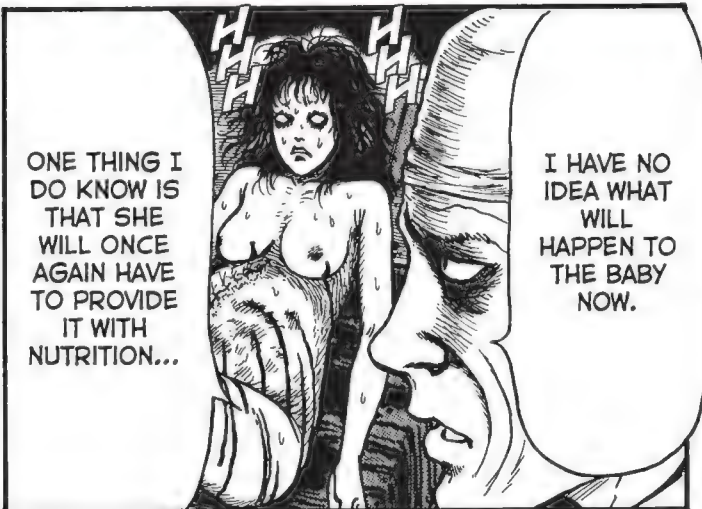
PROCEDURE
?!

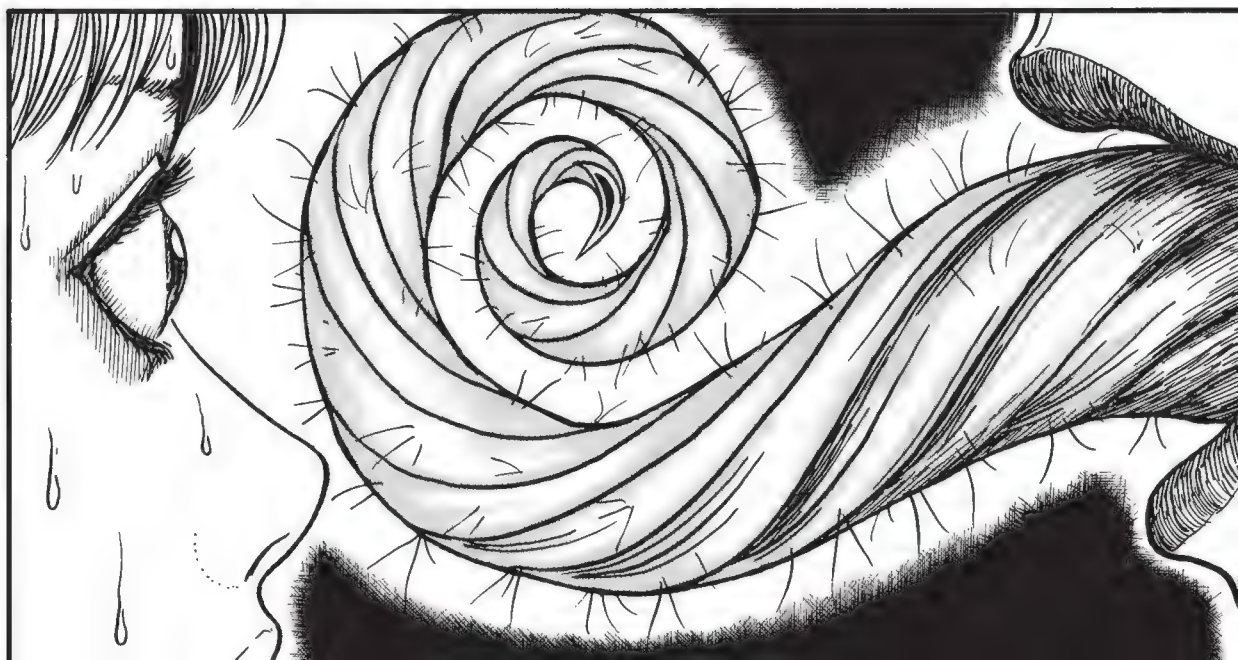
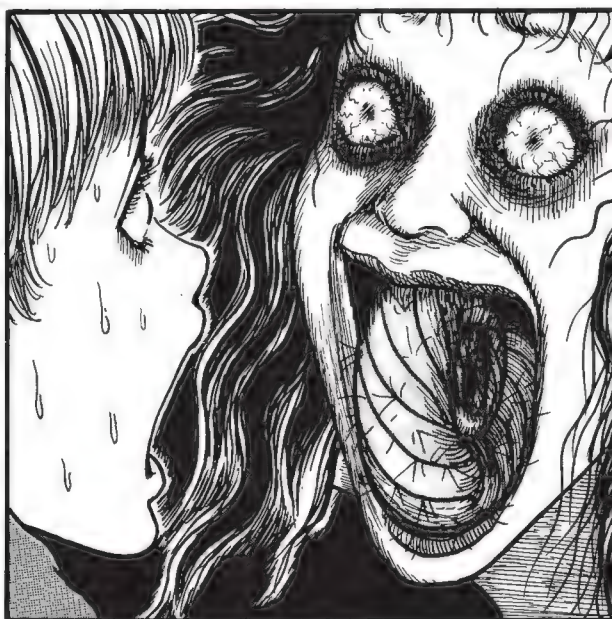
LET ME
THROUGH!

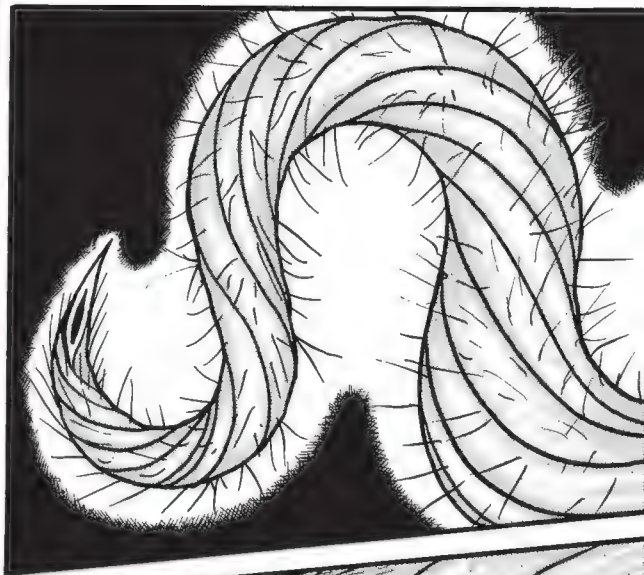


CHK









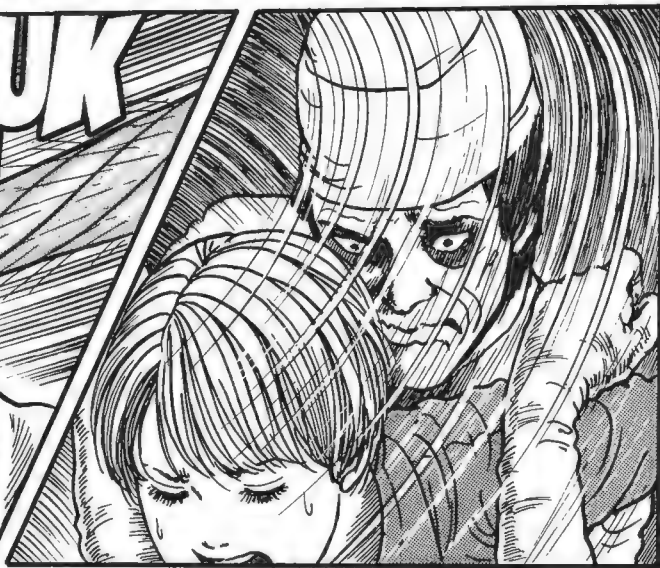
WSSSH

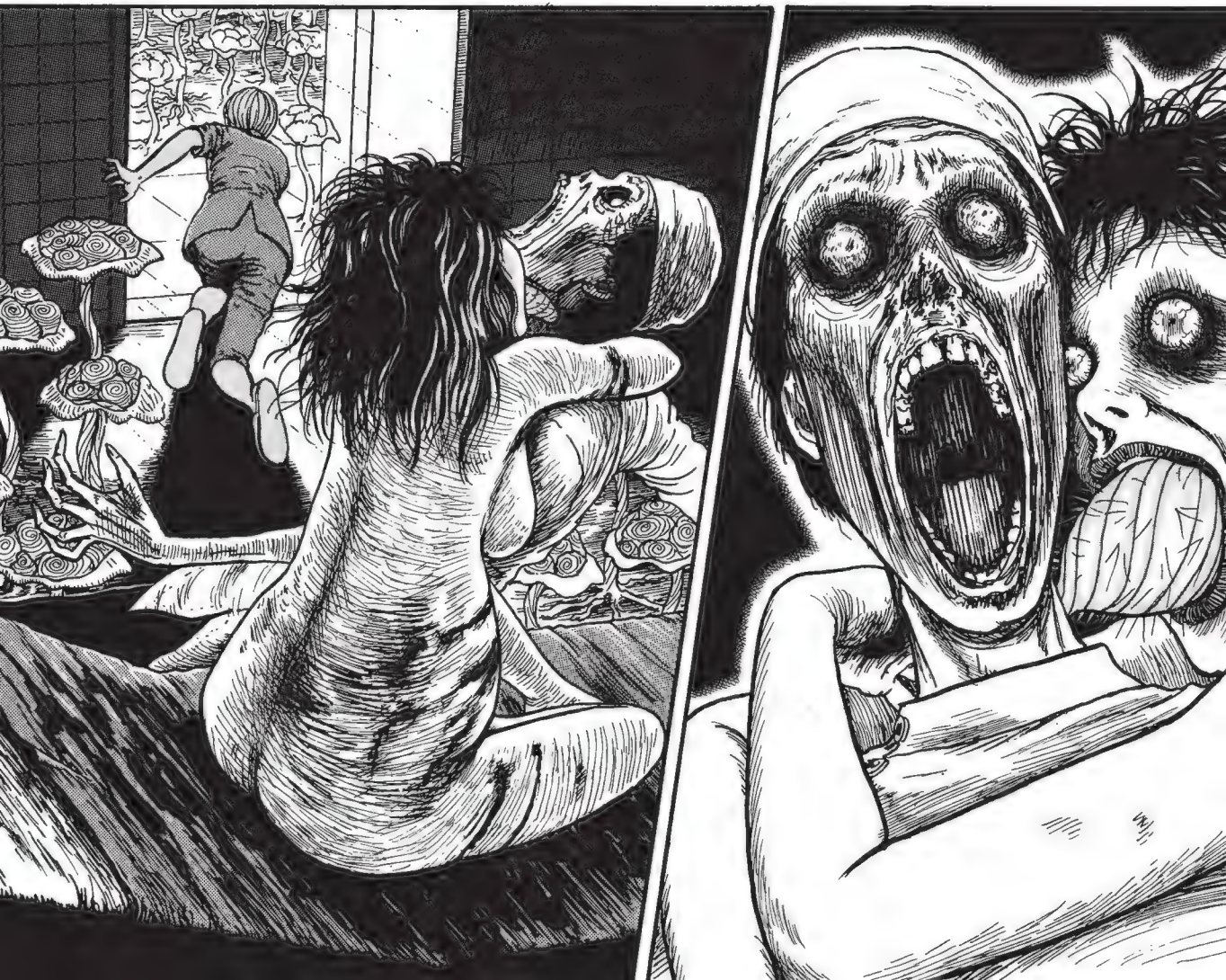


NO!



SHLUK









I
ESCAPED
FROM
THE
HOSPITAL.

I'VE NO
IDEA WHAT
HAPPENED
THERE AFTER
THAT.
I WASN'T
ABOUT TO GO
BACK AND
FIND OUT.

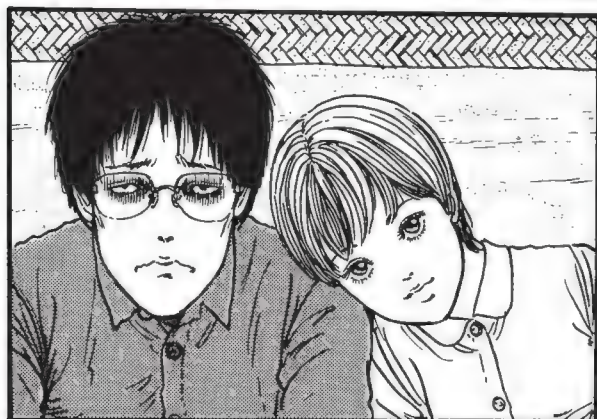
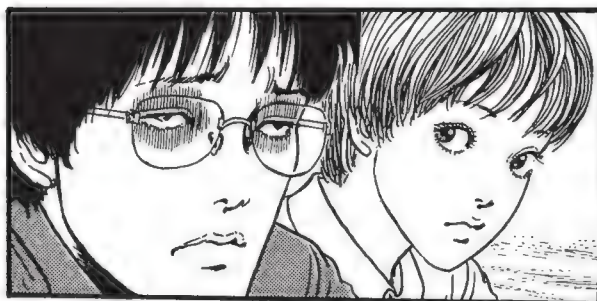
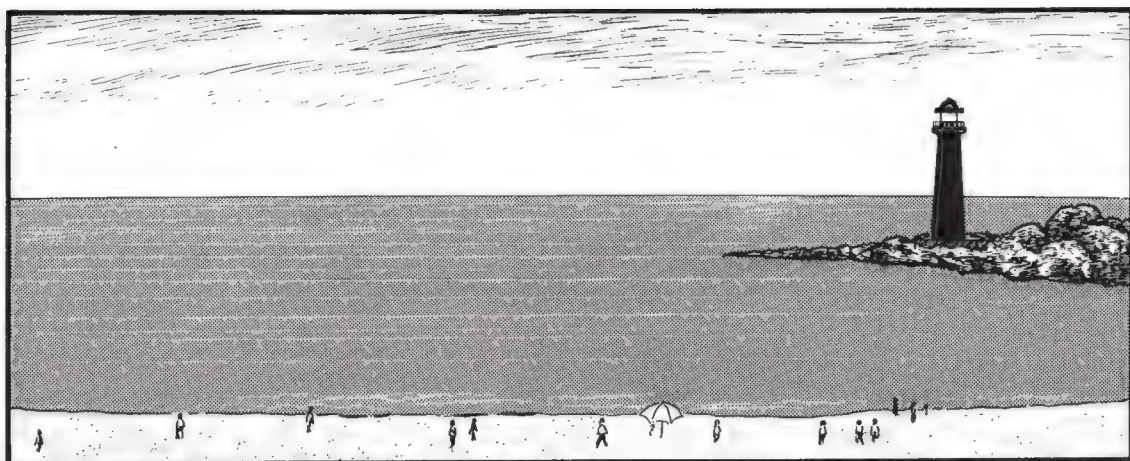


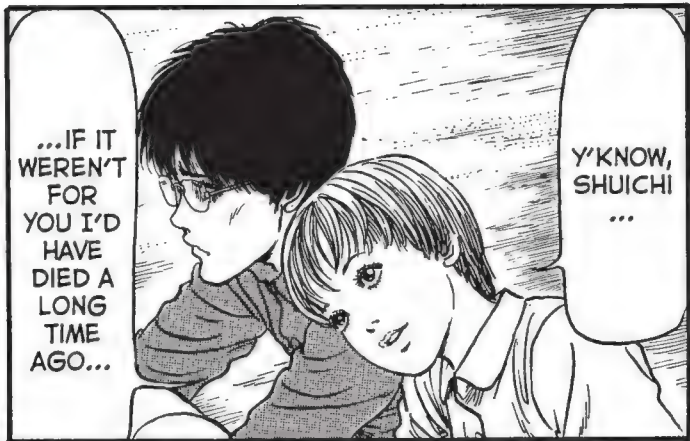
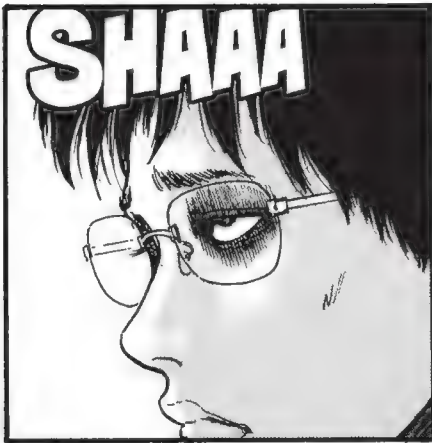
CHAPTER

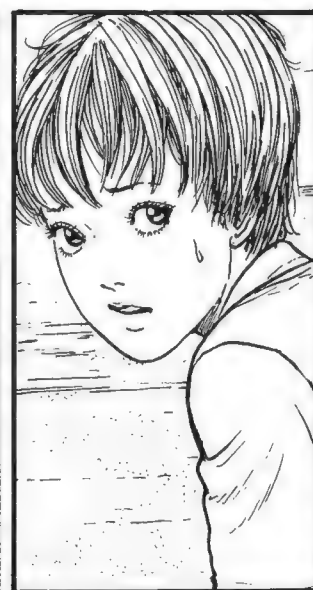
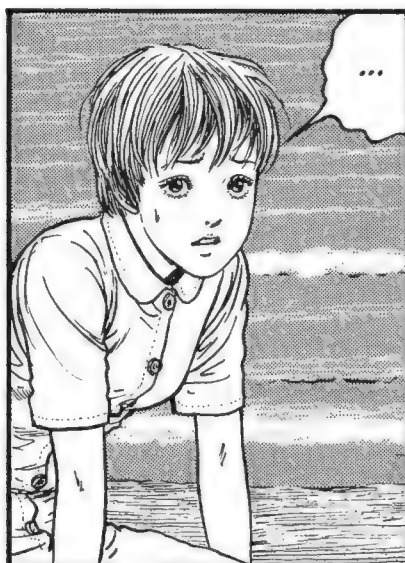
12

THE
STORM



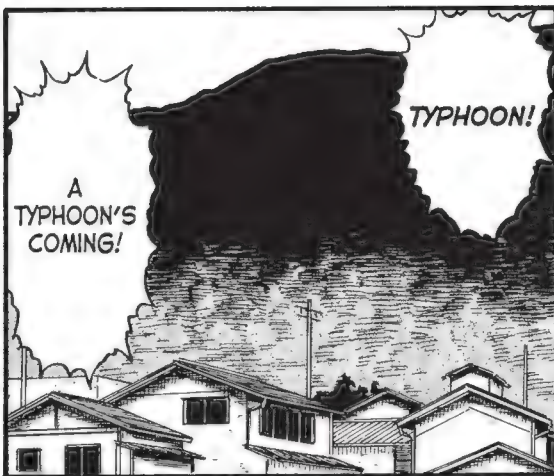








A
TYPHOON'S
COMING!

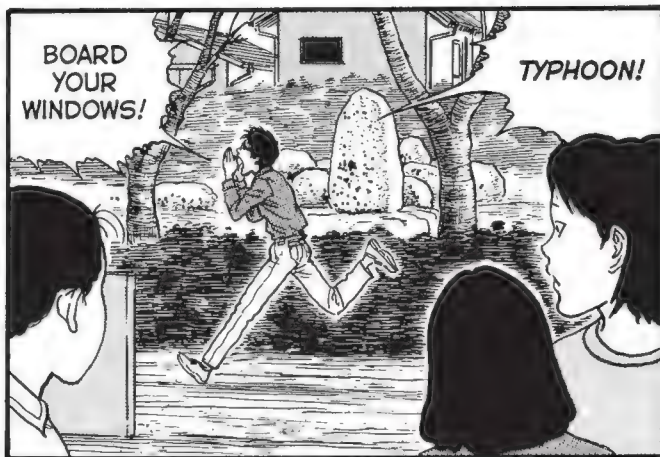


A
TYPHOON'S
COMING!



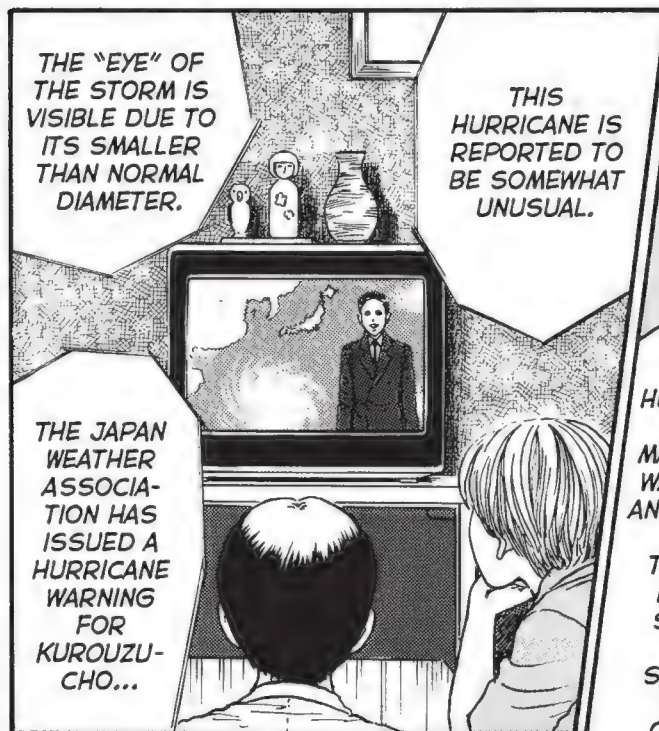
WHAT A
FREAK!

TYPHOON!



BOARD
YOUR
WINDOWS!

TYPHOON!



THE "EYE" OF
THE STORM IS
VISIBLE DUE TO
ITS SMALLER
THAN NORMAL
DIAMETER.

THIS
HURRICANE IS
REPORTED TO
BE SOMEWHAT
UNUSUAL.

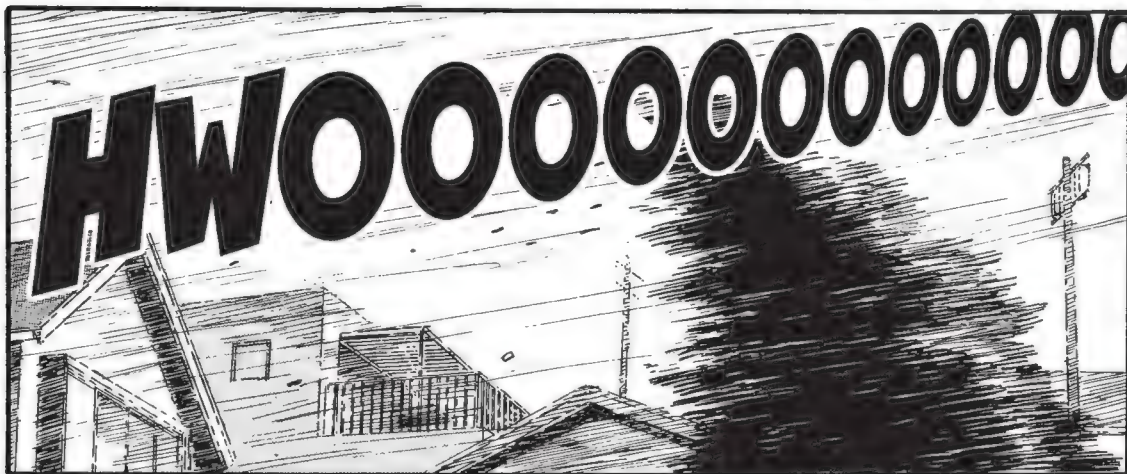
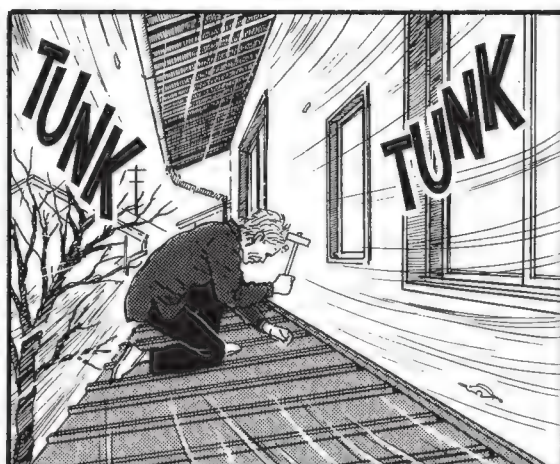
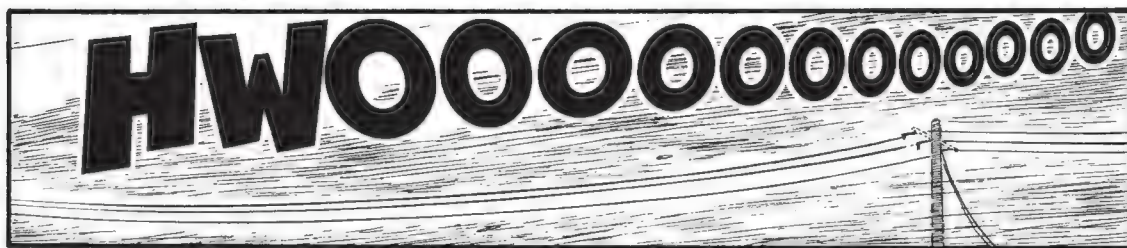
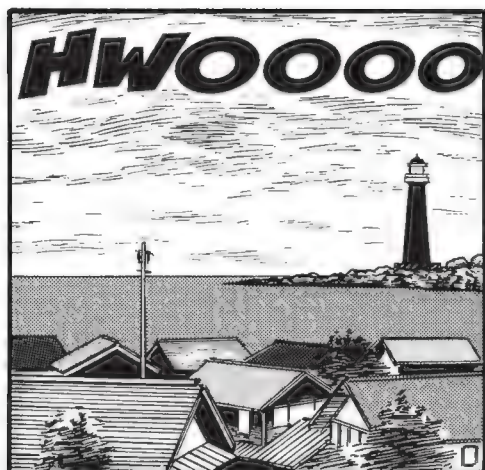
THE JAPAN
WEATHER
ASSOCIA-
TION HAS
ISSUED A
HURRICANE
WARNING
FOR
KUROZU-
CHO...



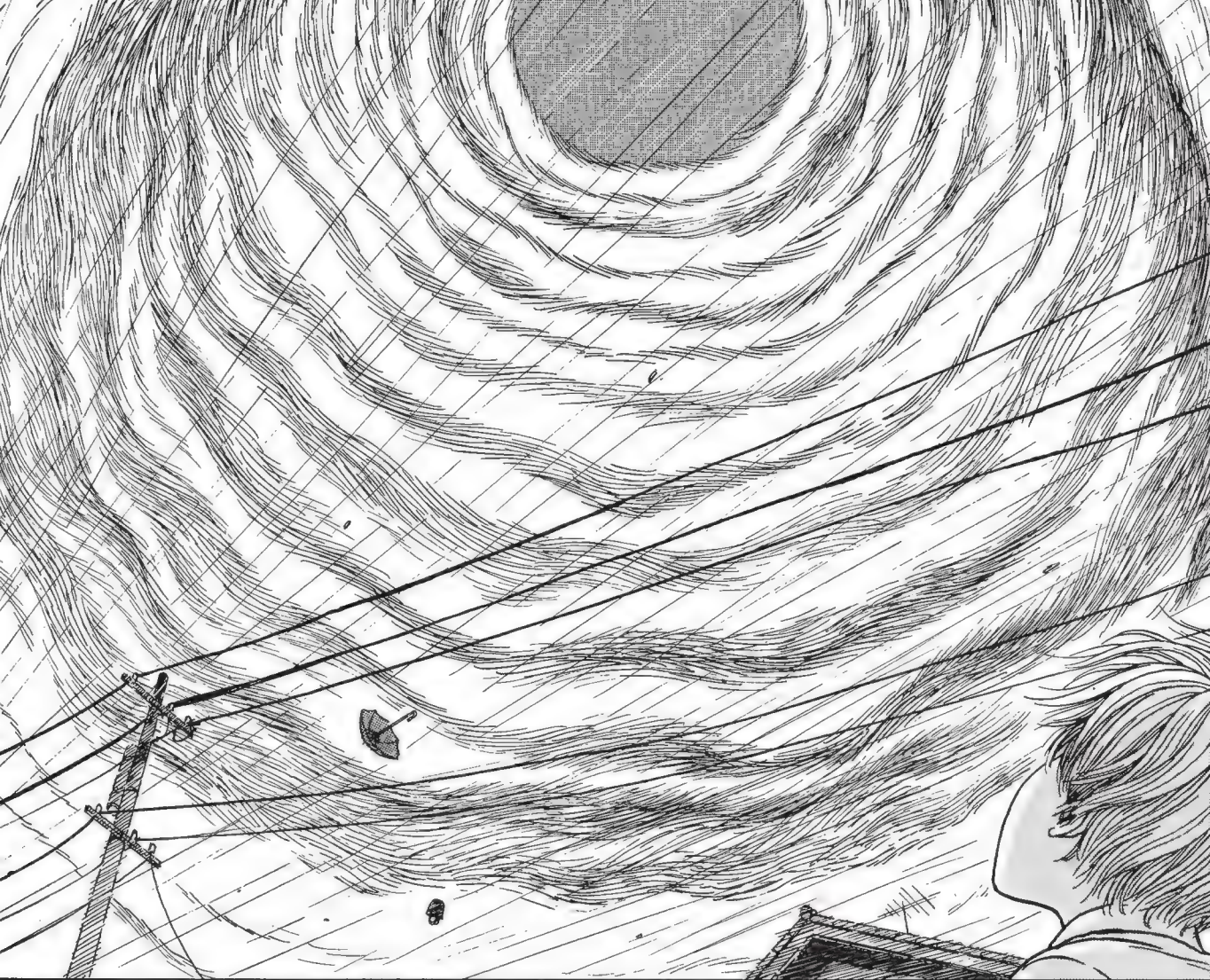
WE'VE SEEN
ABNORMALLY CALM
WEATHER SO FAR
THIS SUMMER...

HURRICANE
NO. 1 IS
MAKING ITS
WAY NORTH
AND SHOULD
PASS
THROUGH
KYŪSHŪ,
SHIKOKU
AND
SOUTHERN
KANSAI
OVER THE
WEEKEND.

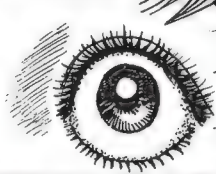
...BUT GET
OUT YOUR
SHUTTERS
AND
RAINCOATS.



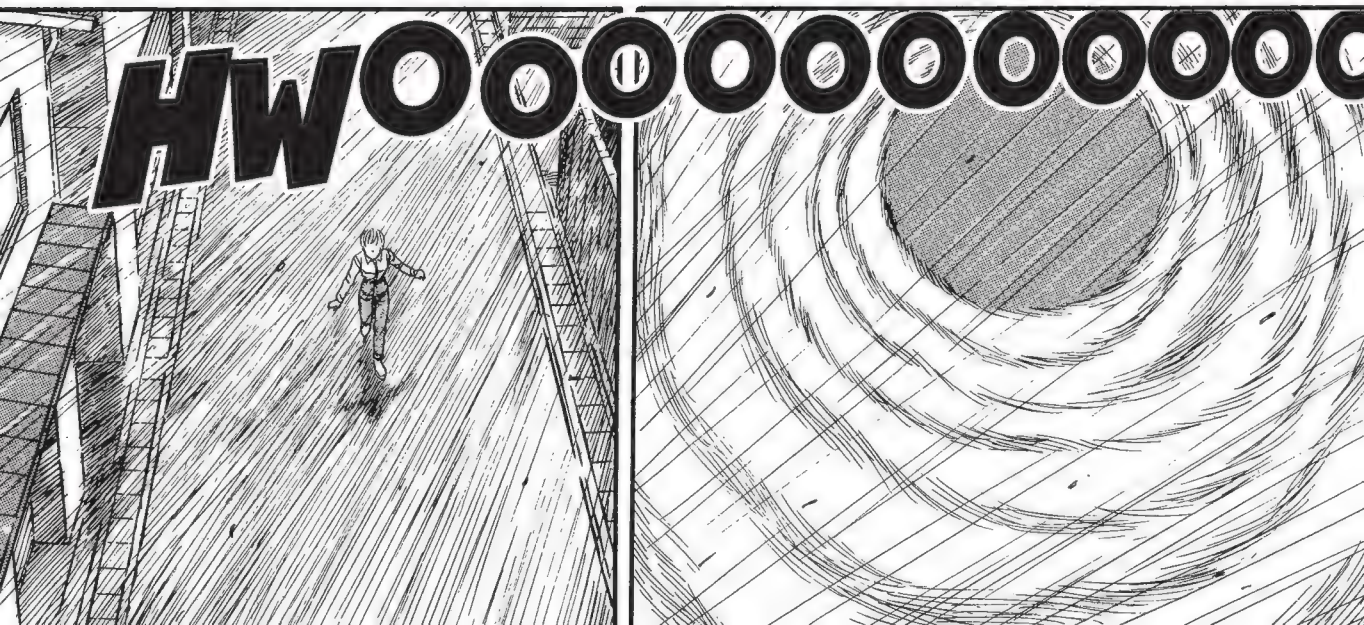


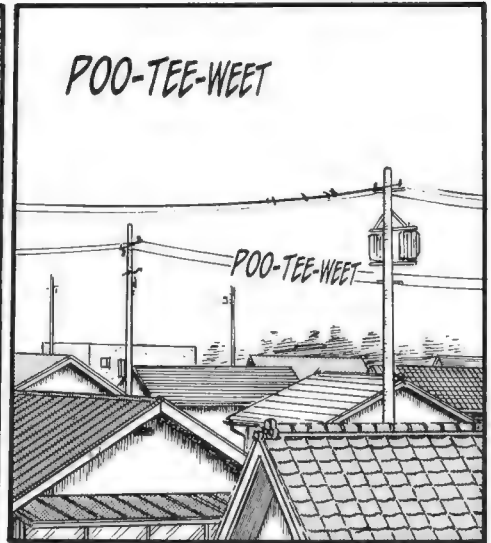
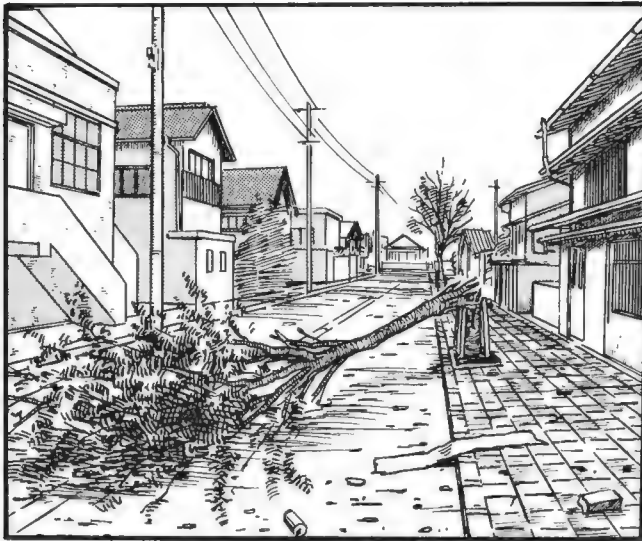


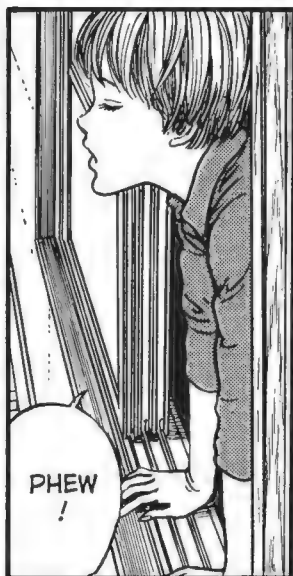
...THE EYE
OF THE
STORM?!



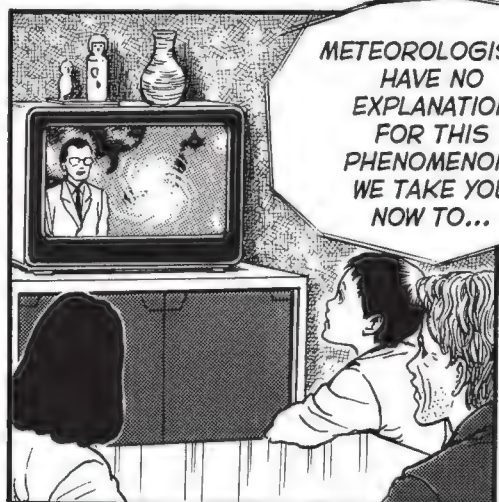
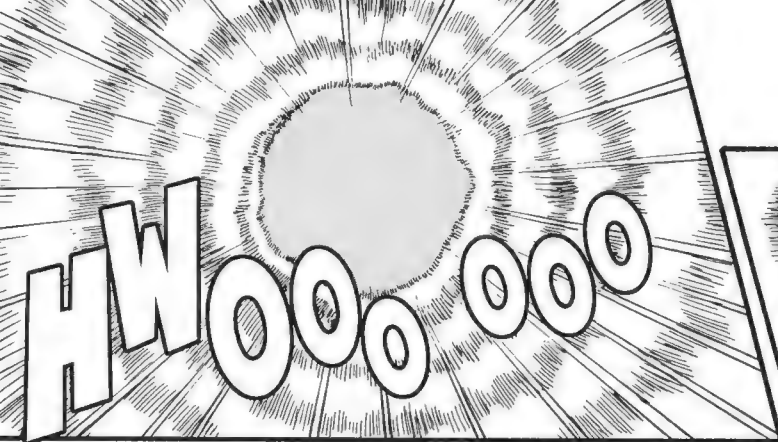
IS
THAT...

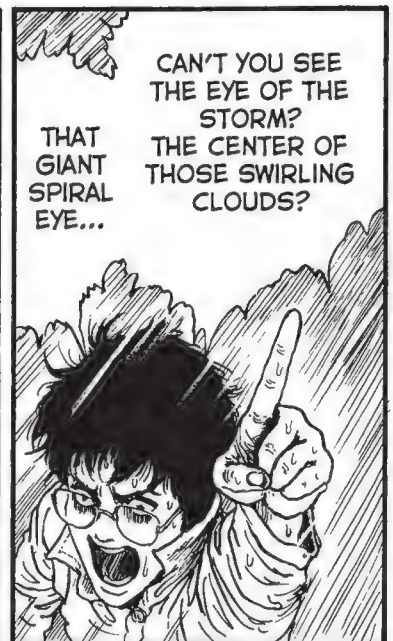
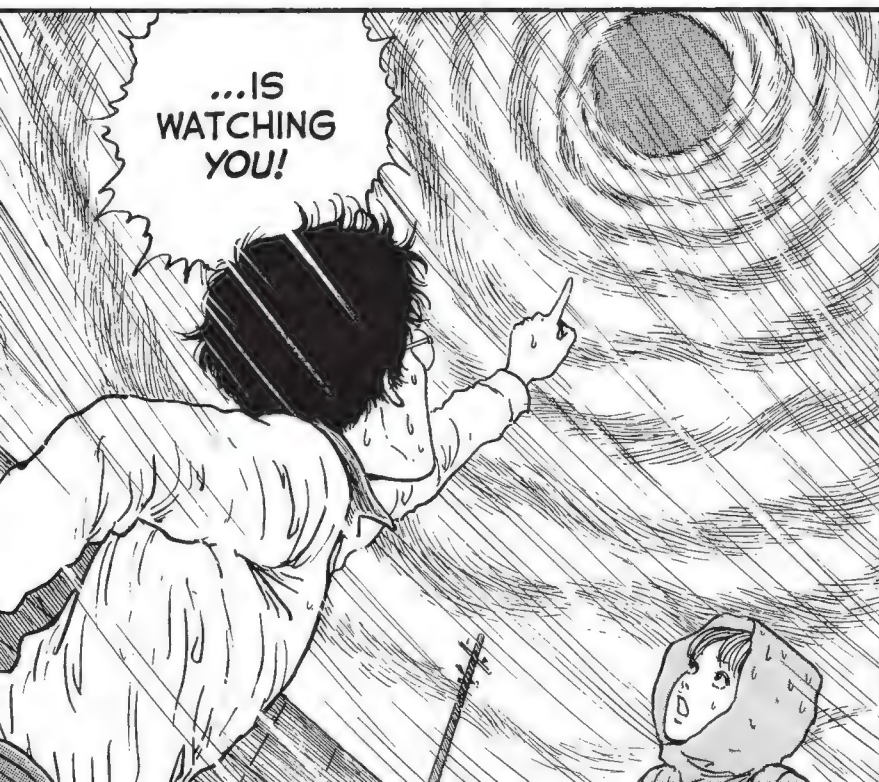
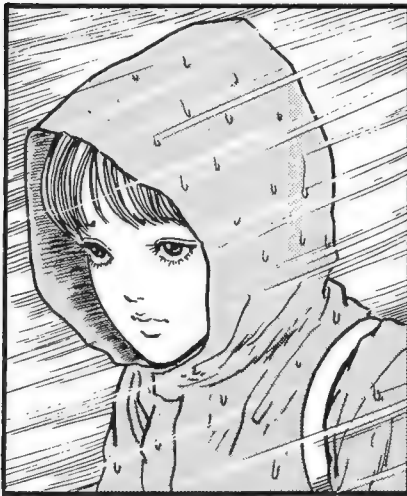


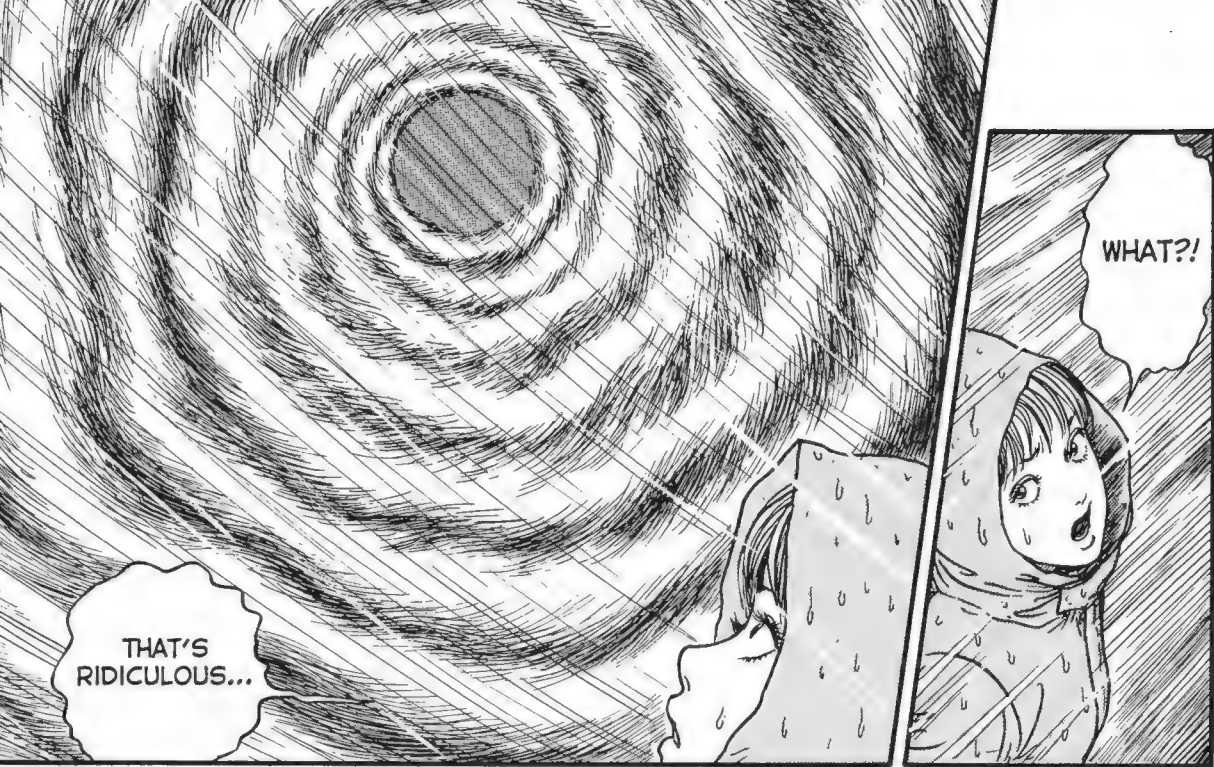












THAT'S
RIDICULOUS...

WHAT?!



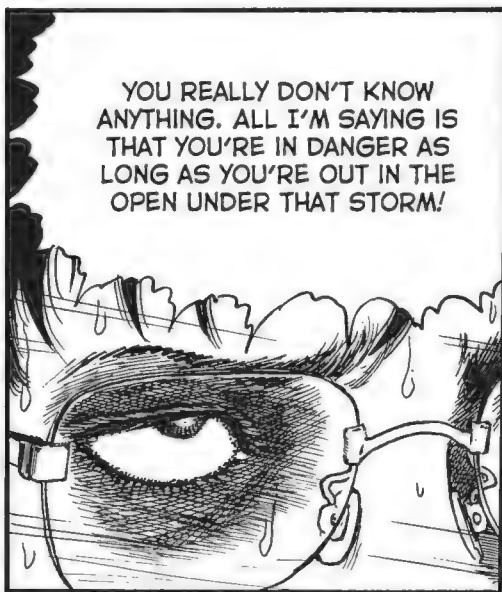
HUH
?!

THE VOICE
OF THE
STORM
WAS
CALLING
YOUR
NAME!



DIDN'T
YOU HEAR
THE WIND
LAST
NIGHT?

YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING. ALL I'M SAYING IS
THAT YOU'RE IN DANGER AS
LONG AS YOU'RE OUT IN THE
OPEN UNDER THAT STORM!



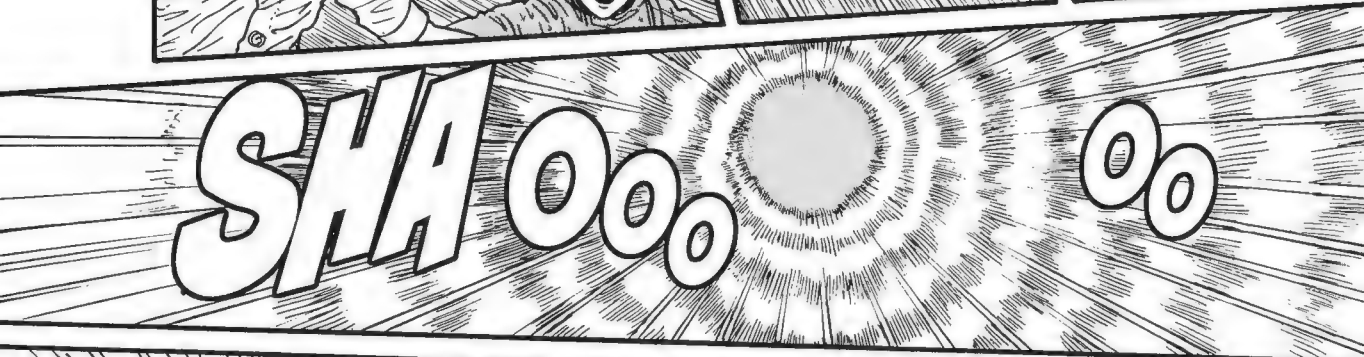
TH-THAT
CAN'T
BE...



I THINK I
MAY HAVE A
RIVAL.

SOUNDS
LIKE IT'S
TAKEN QUITE
A FANCY TO
YOU.





SHW OO OY



AIIEEE!

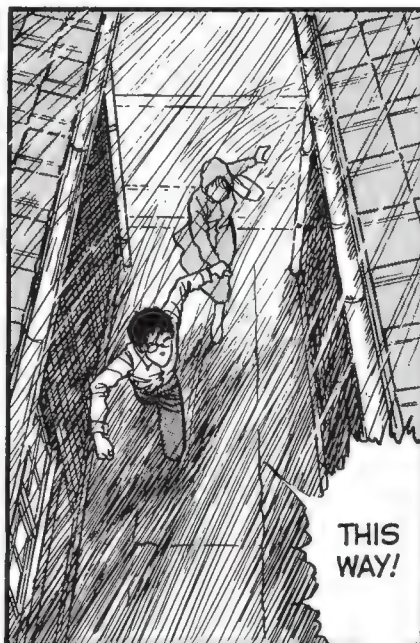
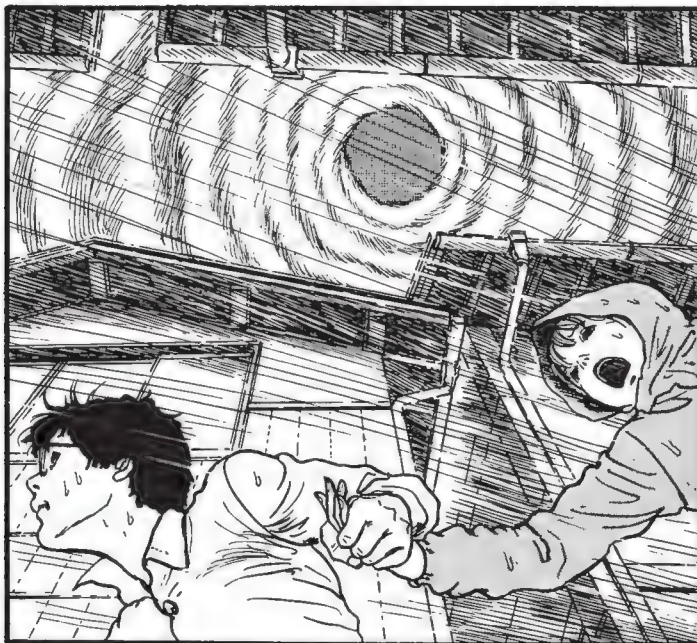


HURRY!



KA SHOOOM

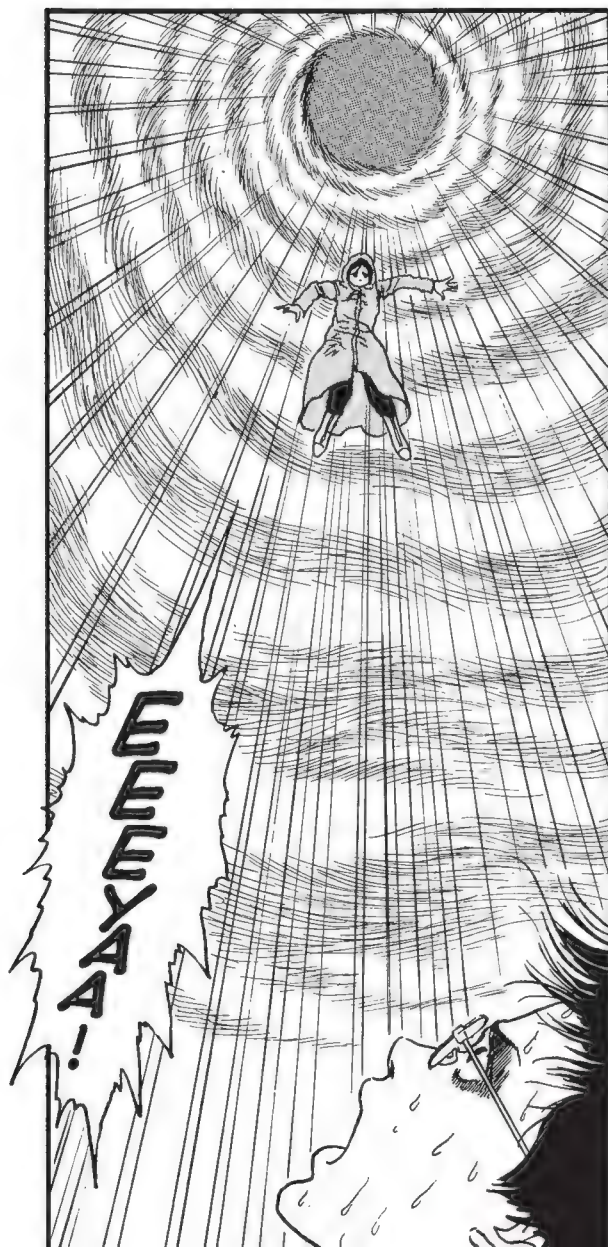
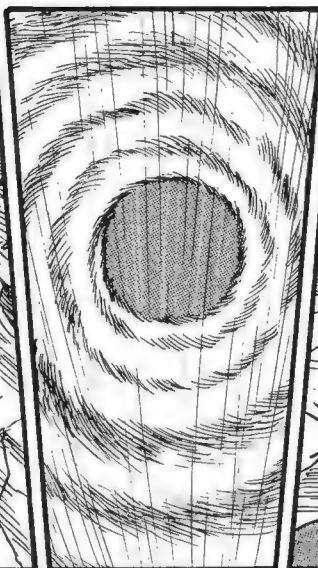
CRUNCH

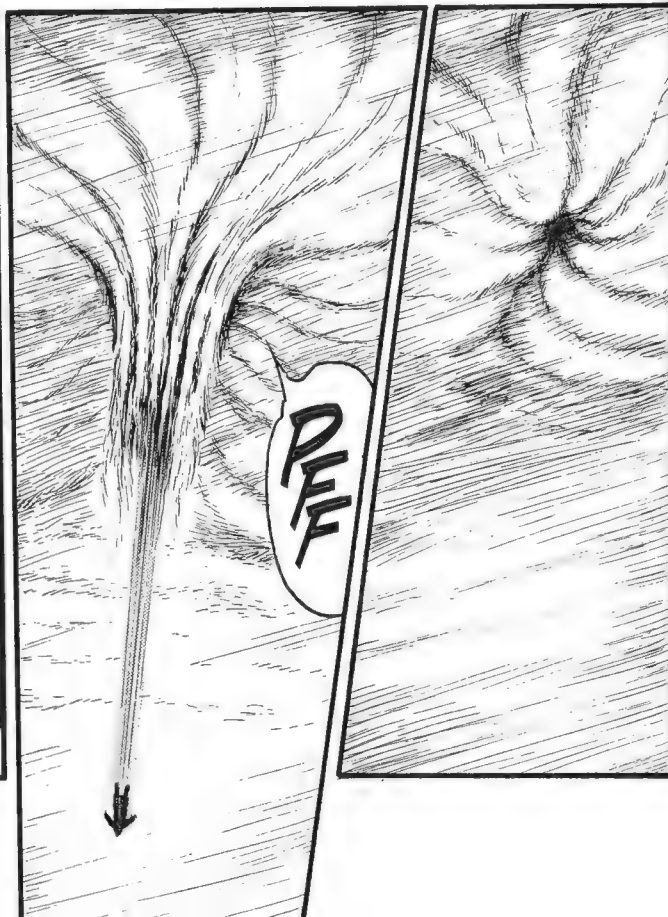
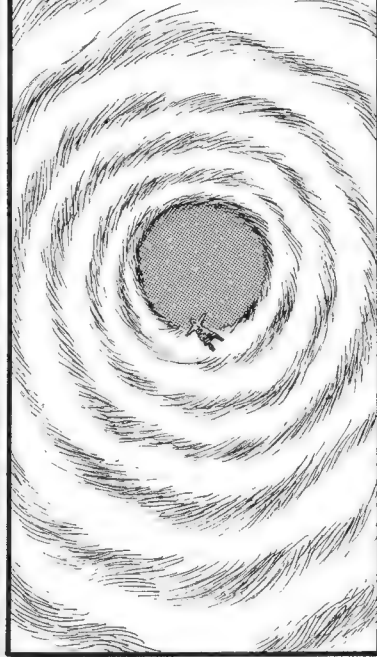
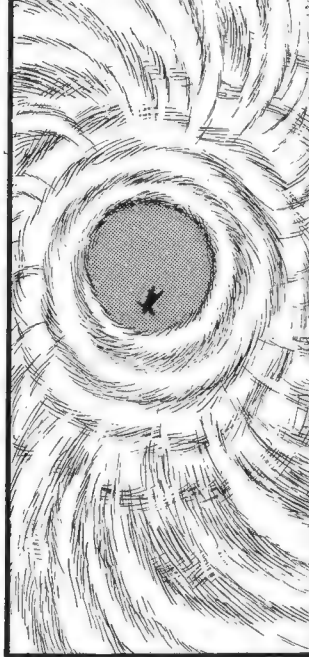


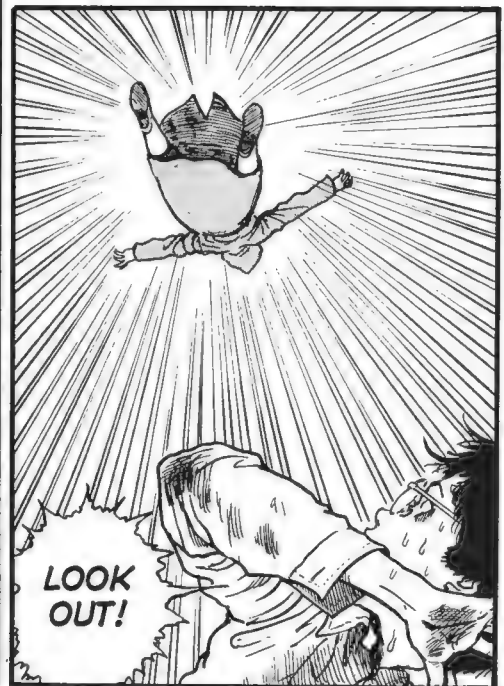
THIS WAY!

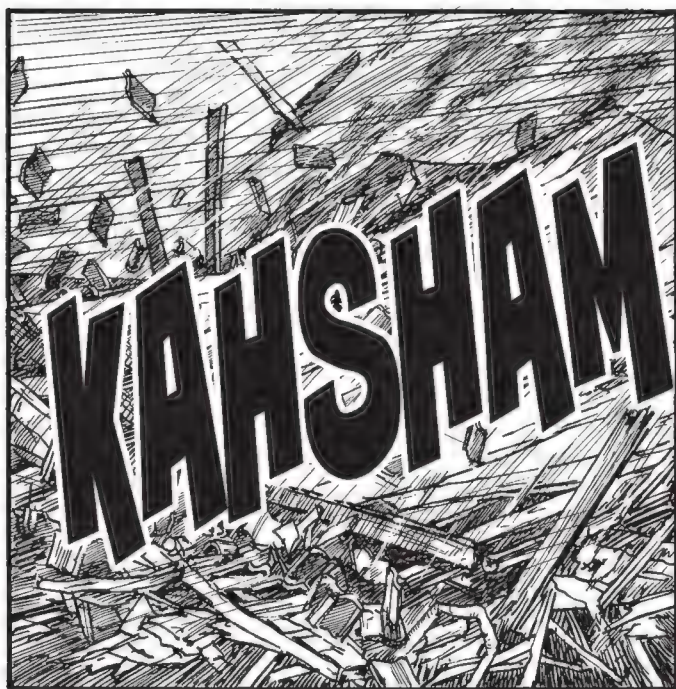


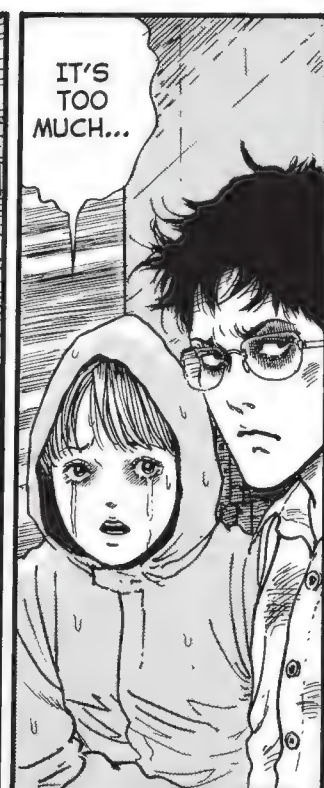
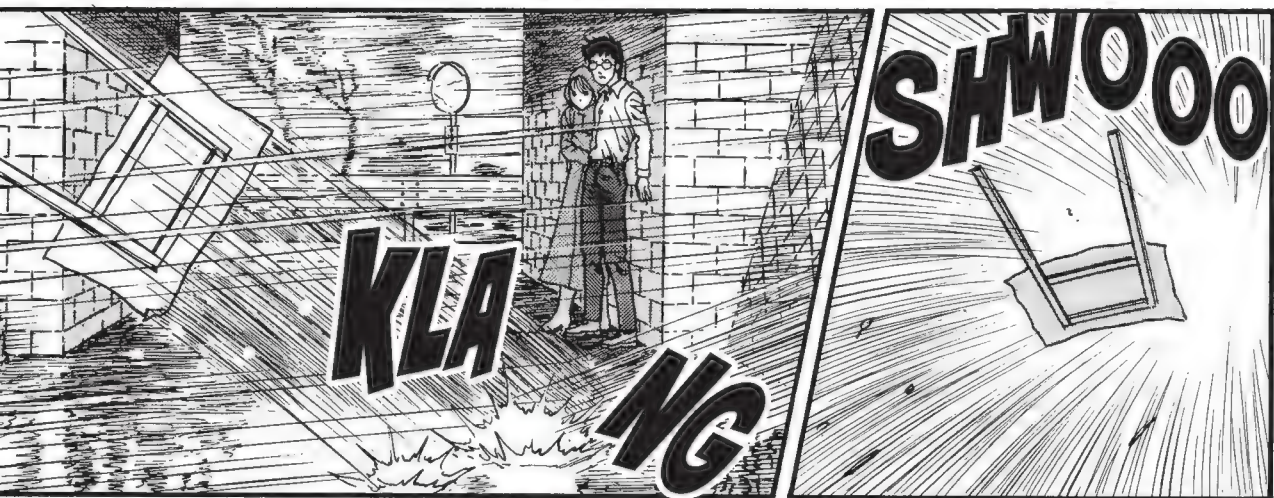




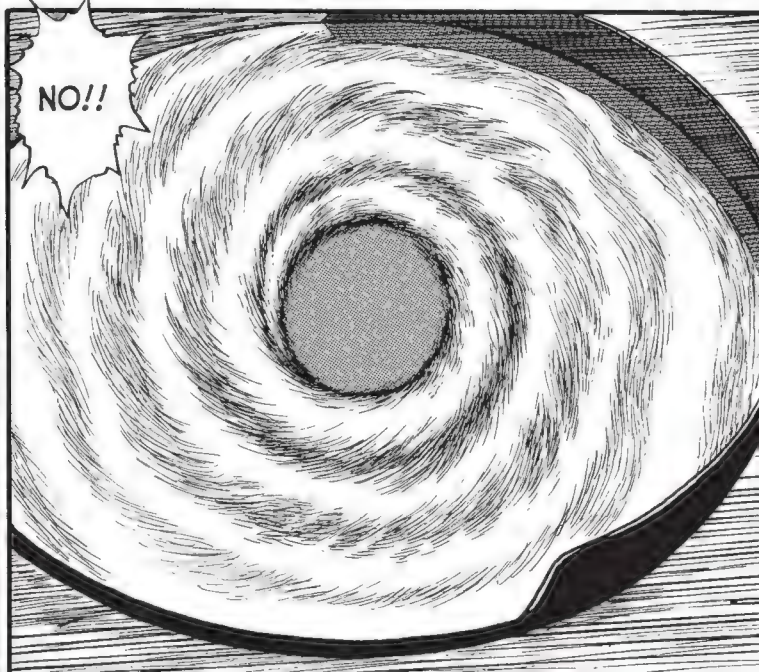
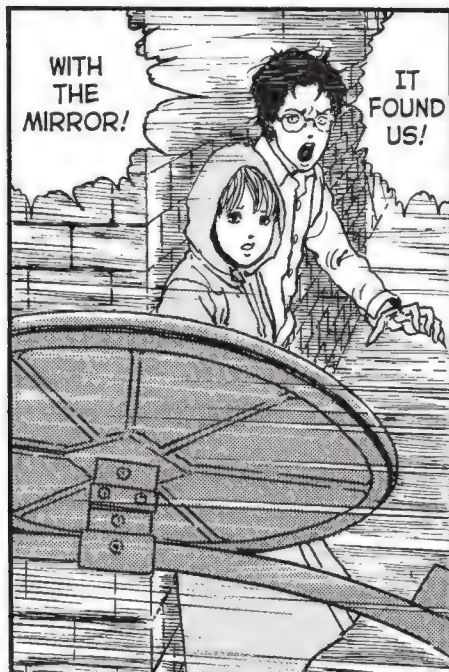
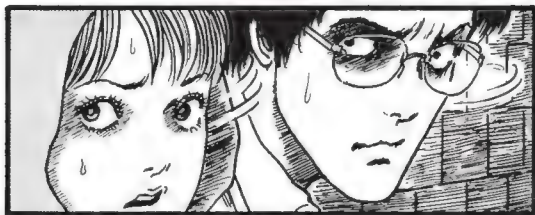
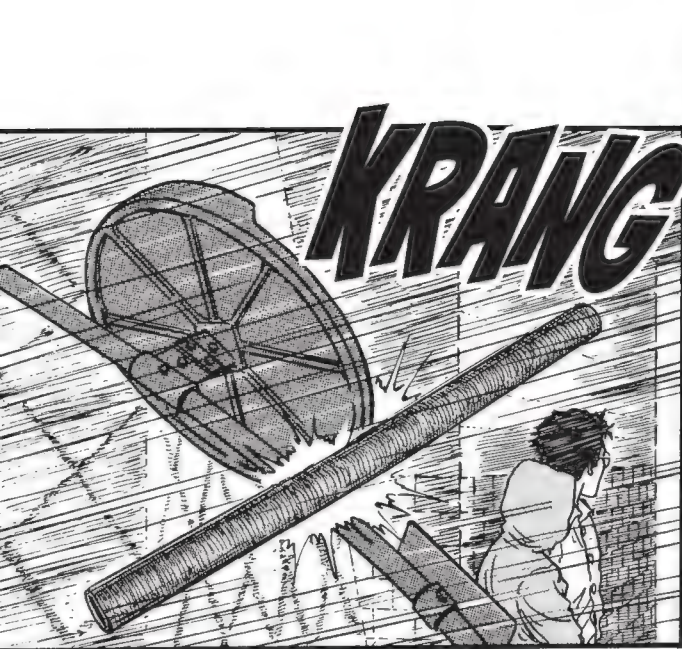


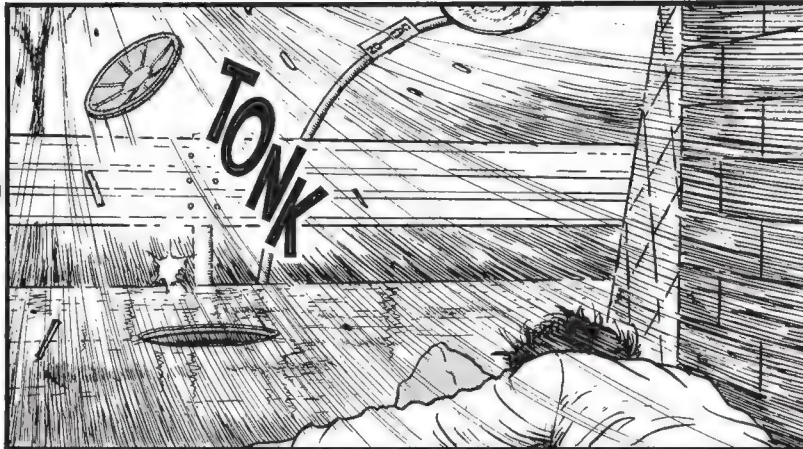
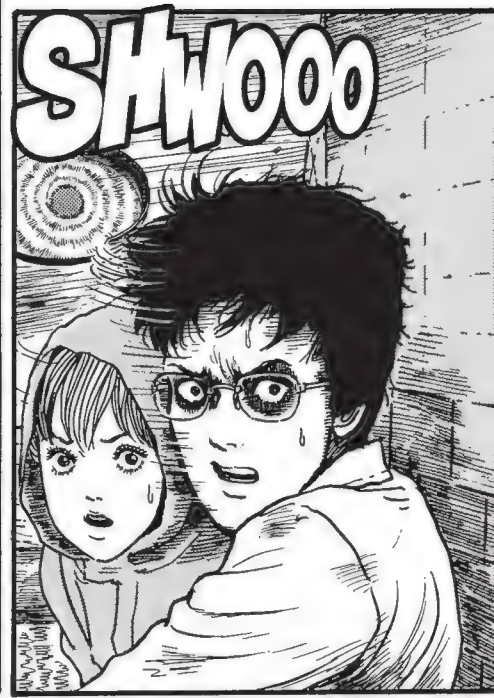


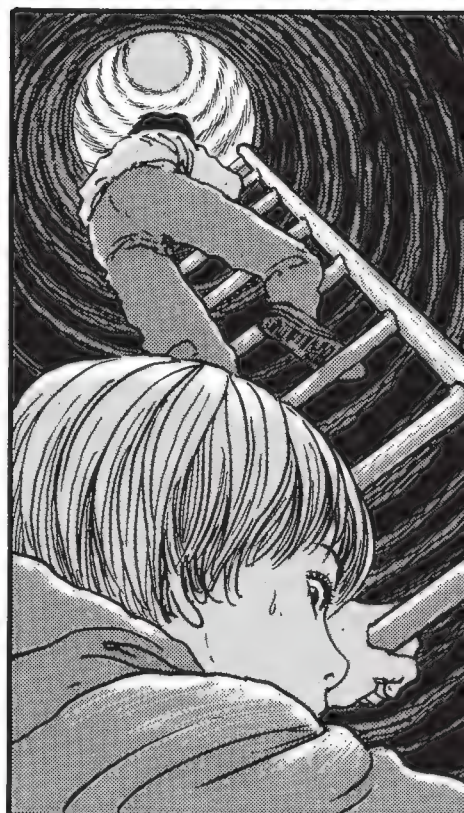
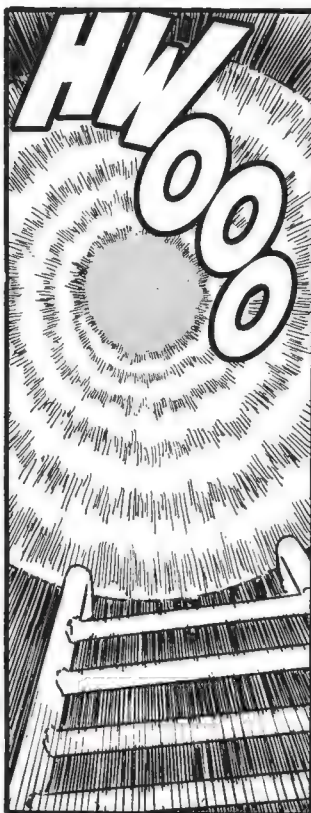


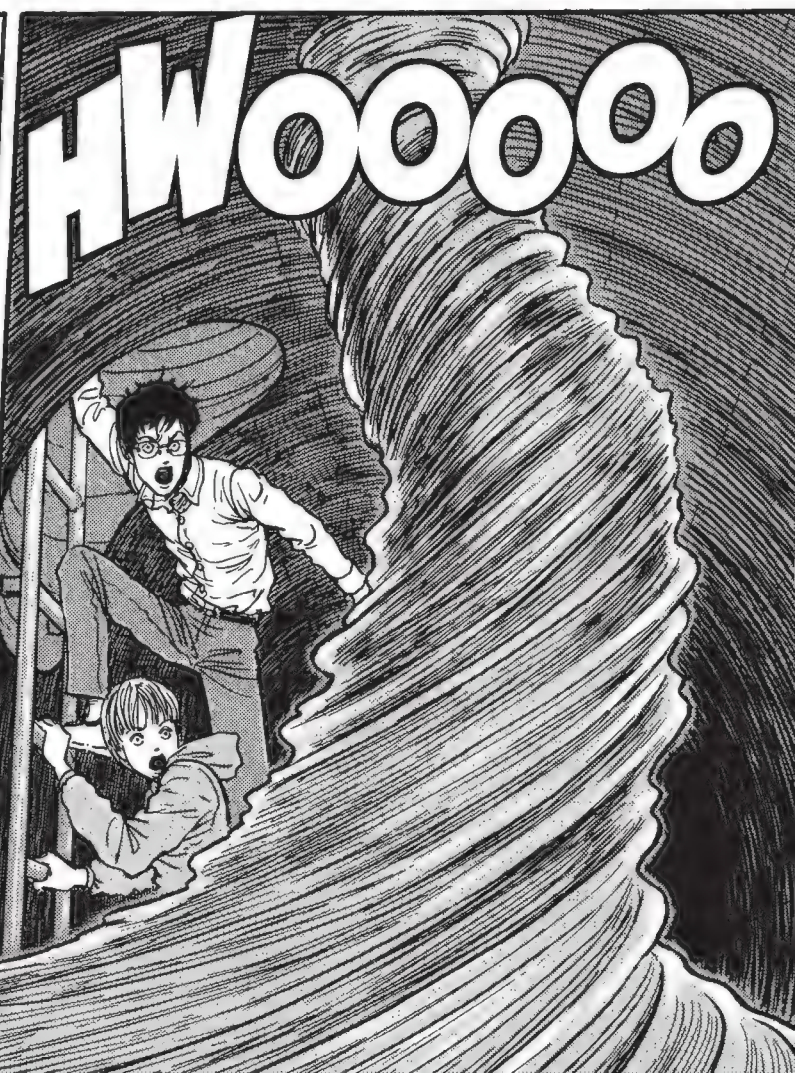


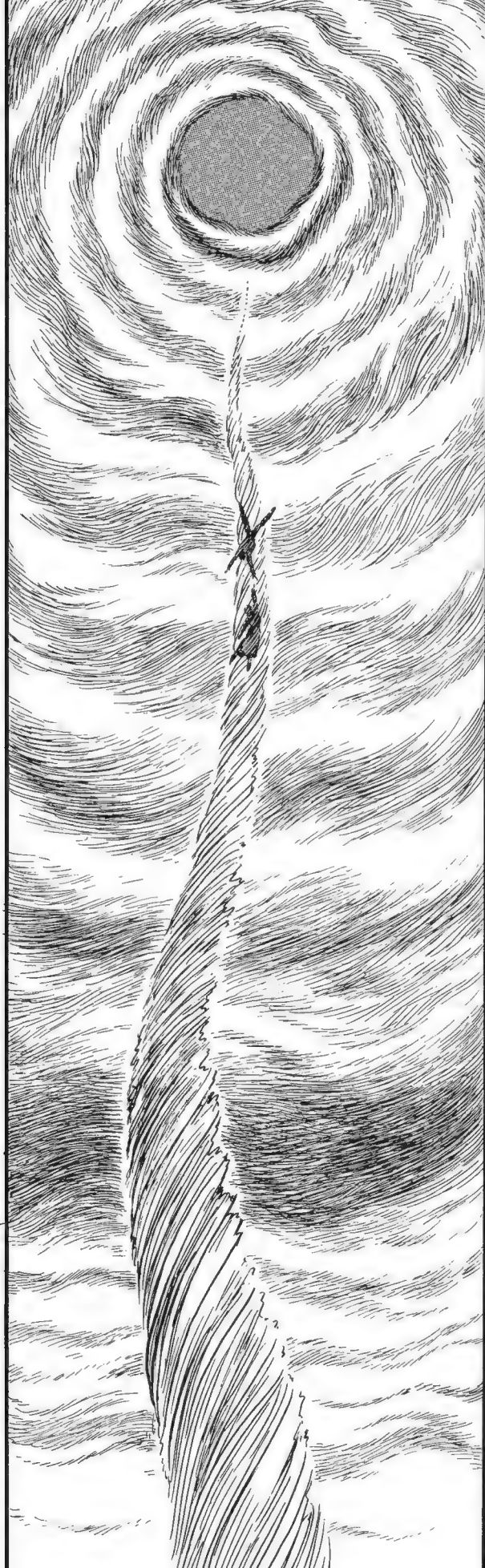


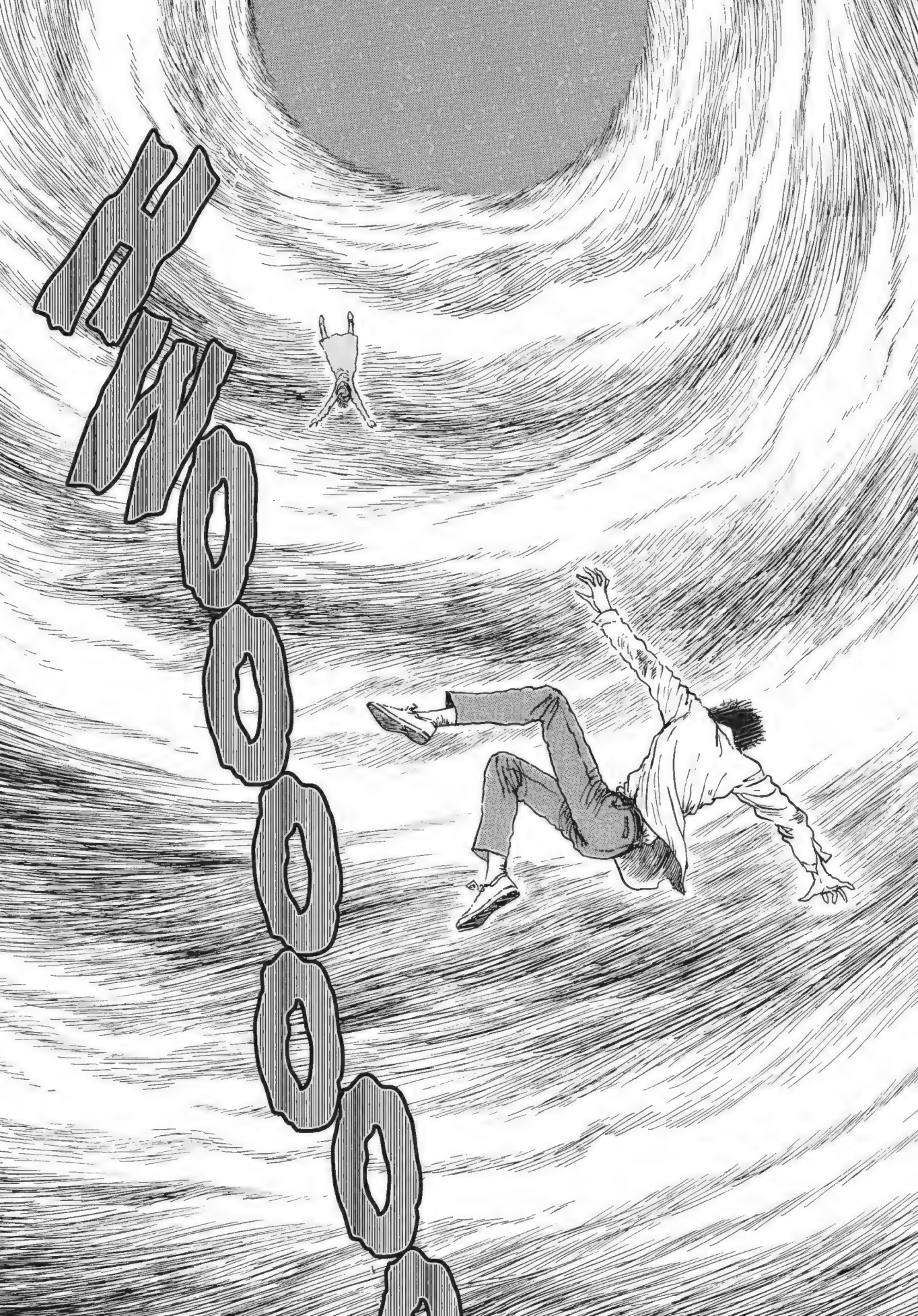


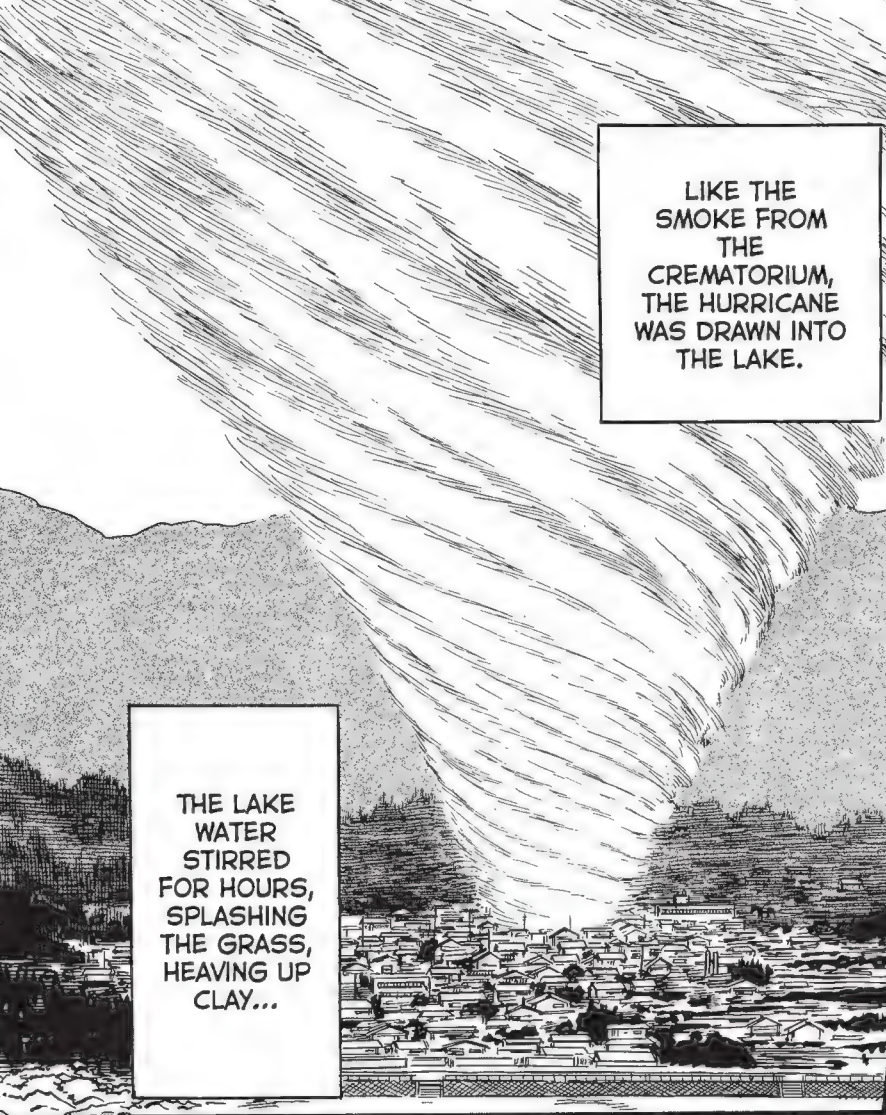












LIKE THE
SMOKE FROM
THE
CREMATORIUM,
THE HURRICANE
WAS DRAWN INTO
THE LAKE.

THE LAKE
WATER
STIRRED
FOR HOURS,
SPLASHING
THE GRASS,
HEAVING UP
CLAY...

SOMETIME
LATER THEY
PULLED US
OUT OF
DRAGONFLY
POND.

KIRIE,
WAKE
UP!!

SHUICHI
!!

...HURRICANE NO. 1
HAS ABRUPTLY
DISAPPEARED.



AFTER
HOVERING FOR
TWO DAYS
OVER
KUROUZU-CHO...

...IS NOW
APPROACHING
FROM THE
SOUTH CHINA
SEA...

HWOOOOOO

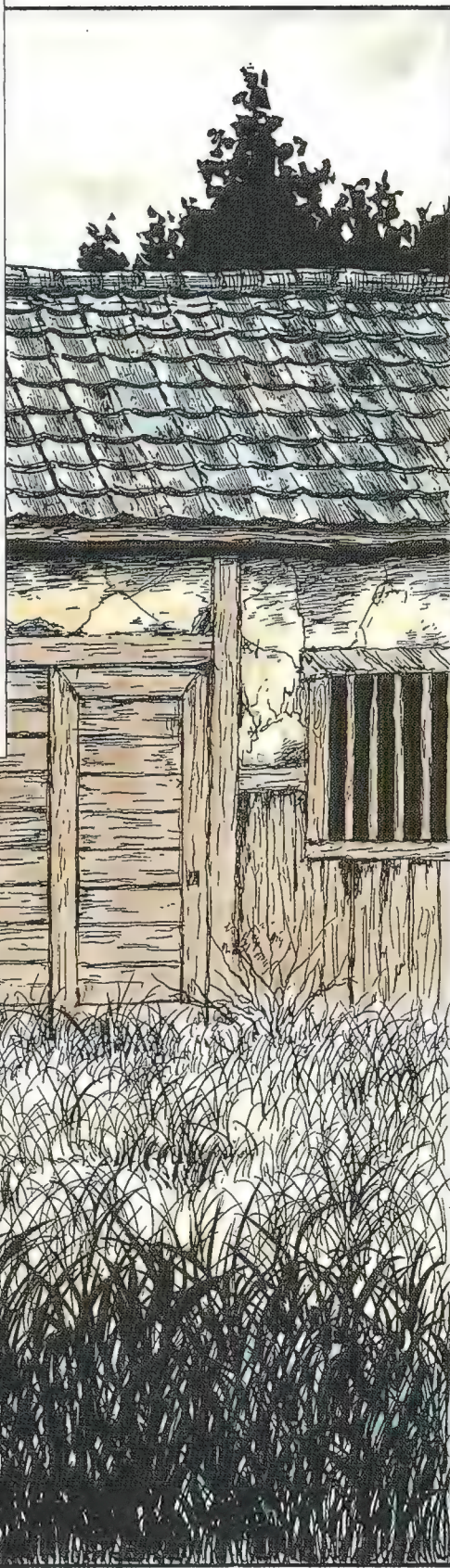
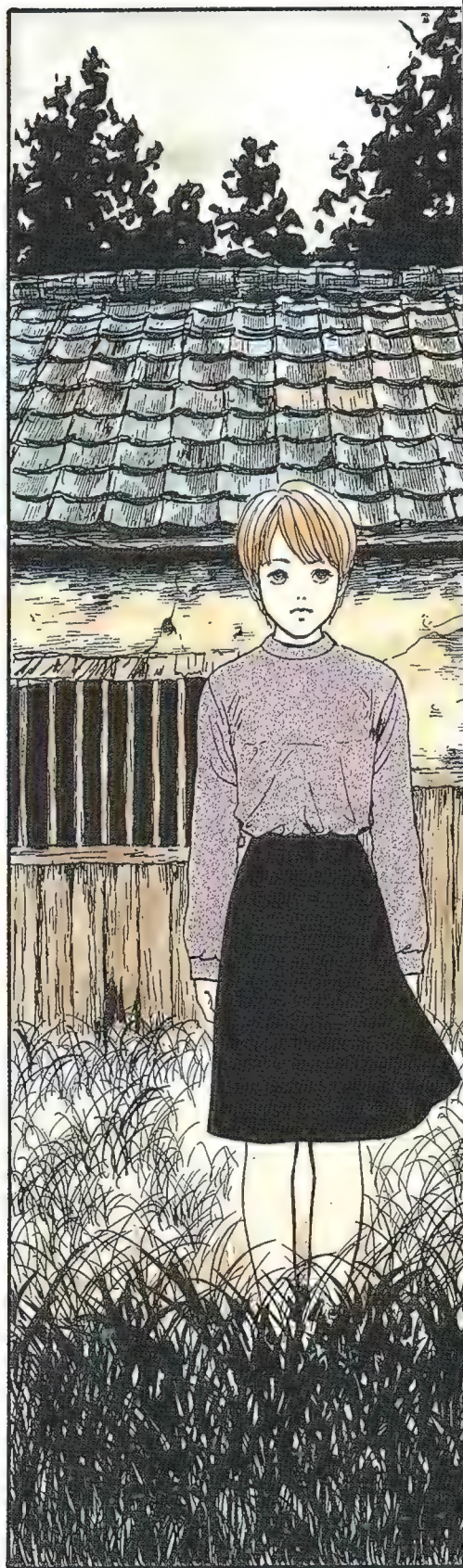
THE NEXT
SUMMER
STORM...

SHAAA...

CHAPTER

13

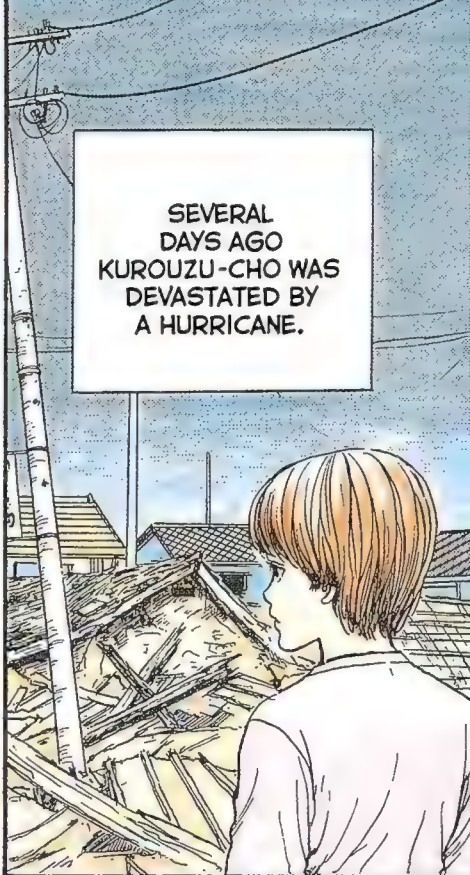
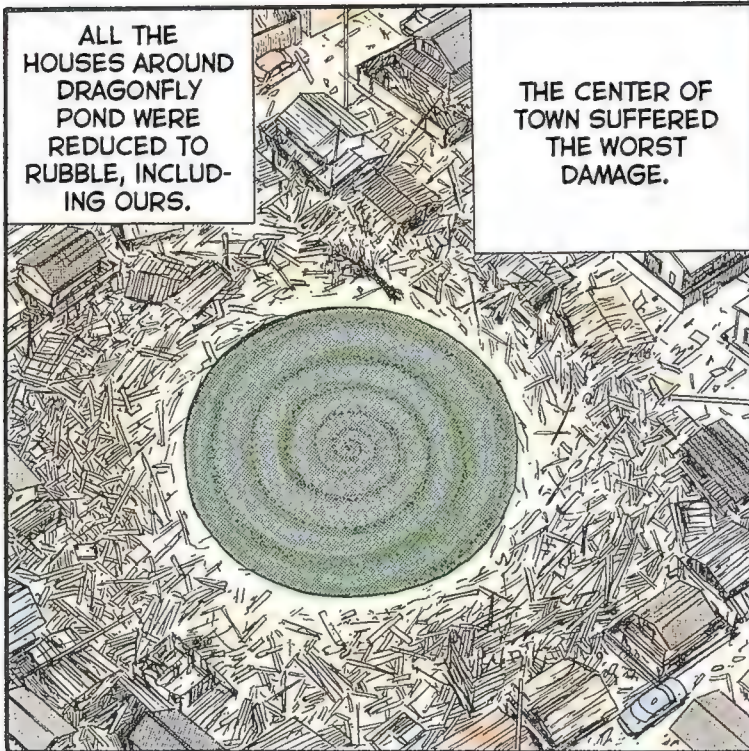
THE
HOUSE



ALL THE
HOUSES AROUND
DRAGONFLY
POND WERE
REDUCED TO
RUBBLE, INCLUD-
ING OURS.

THE CENTER OF
TOWN SUFFERED
THE WORST
DAMAGE.

SEVERAL
DAYS AGO
KUROUZU-CHO WAS
DEVASTATED BY
A HURRICANE.



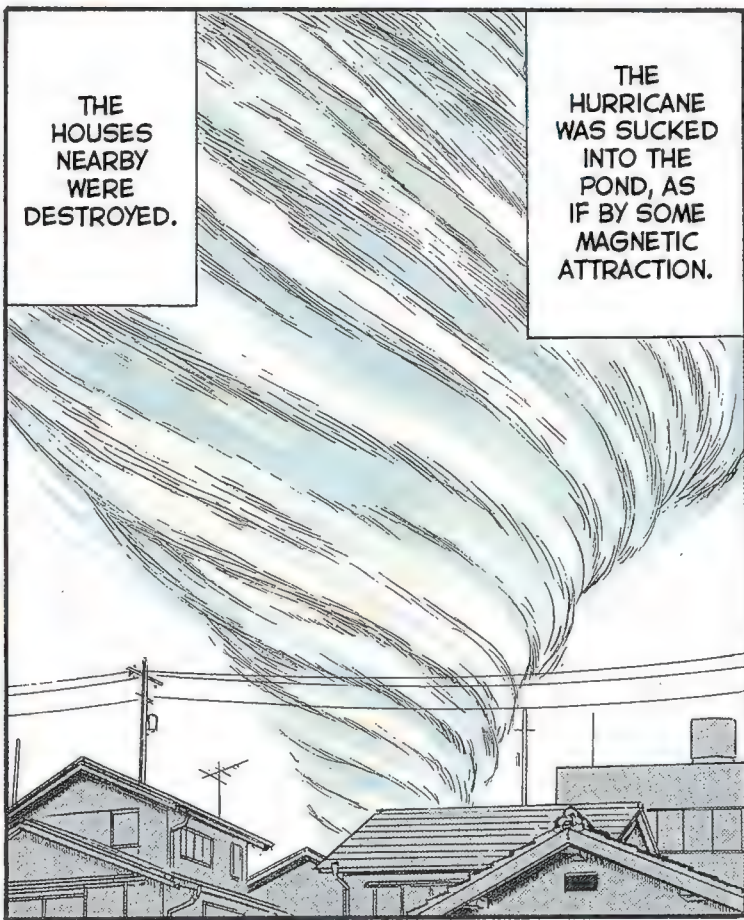
BY A
MIRACLE,
MY FAMILY
SURVIVED...

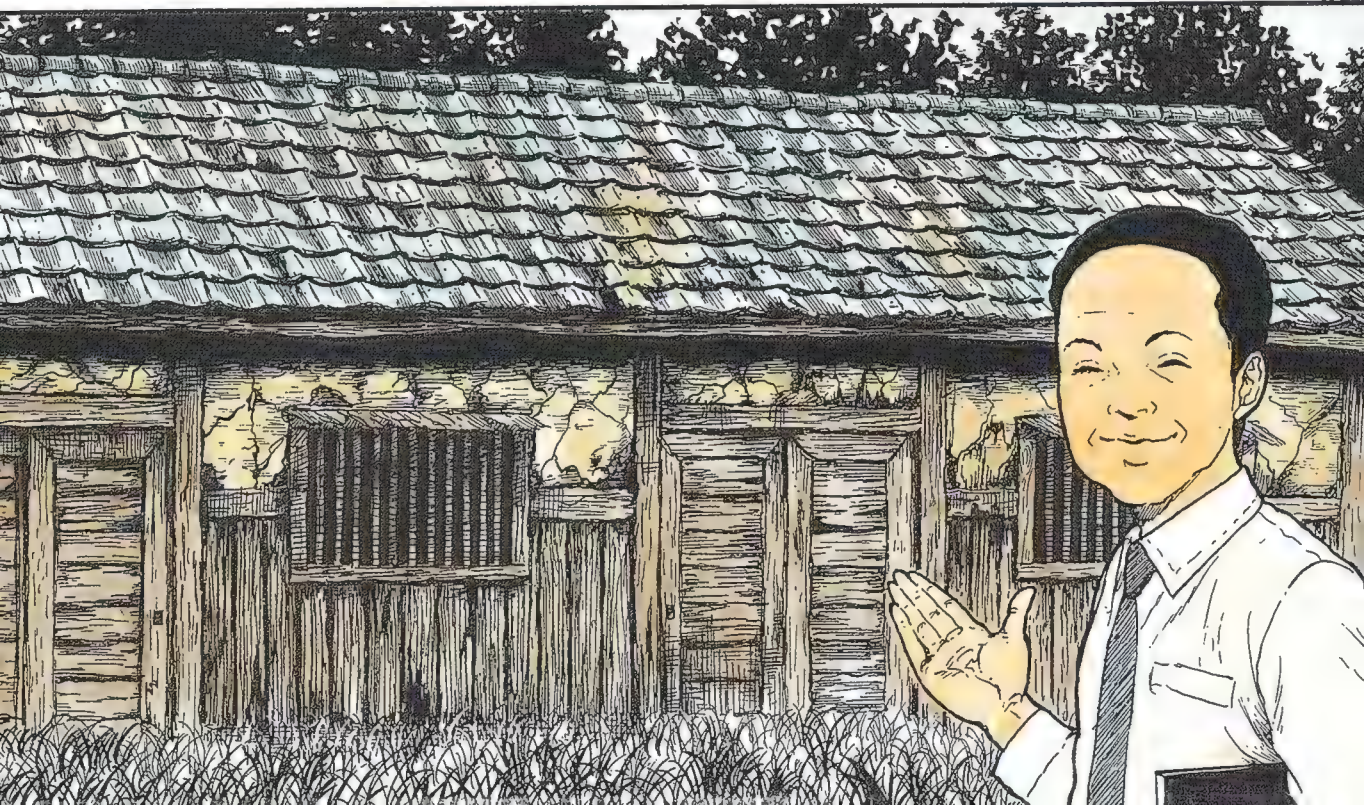
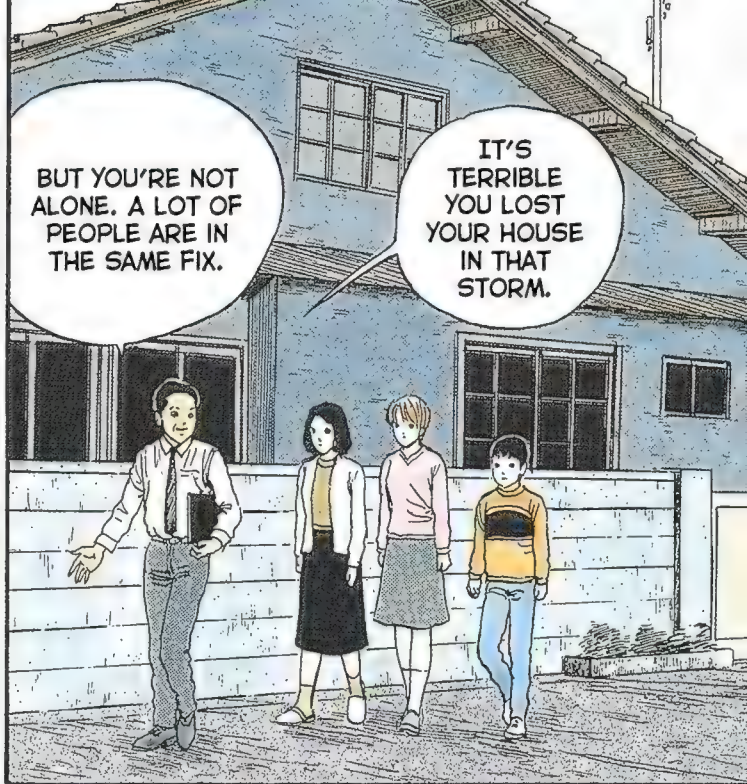
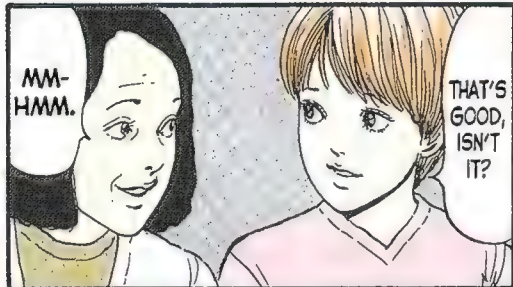
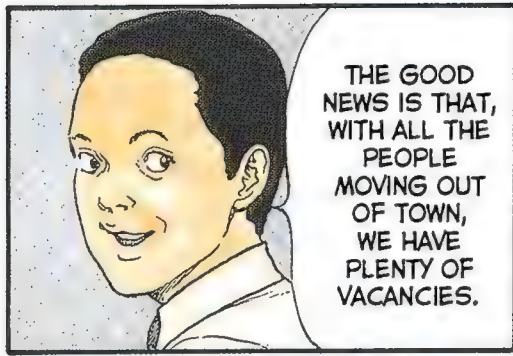
THE
HOUSES
NEARBY
WERE
DESTROYED.

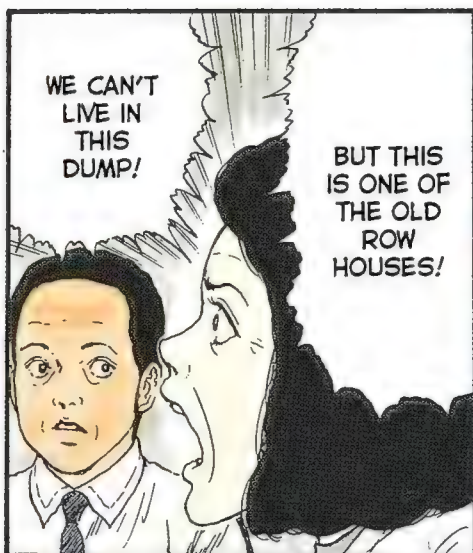
THE
HURRICANE
WAS SUCKED
INTO THE
POND, AS
IF BY SOME
MAGNETIC
ATTRACTION.



...BUT
WE HAD
TO FIND
ANOTHER
PLACE TO
LIVE.

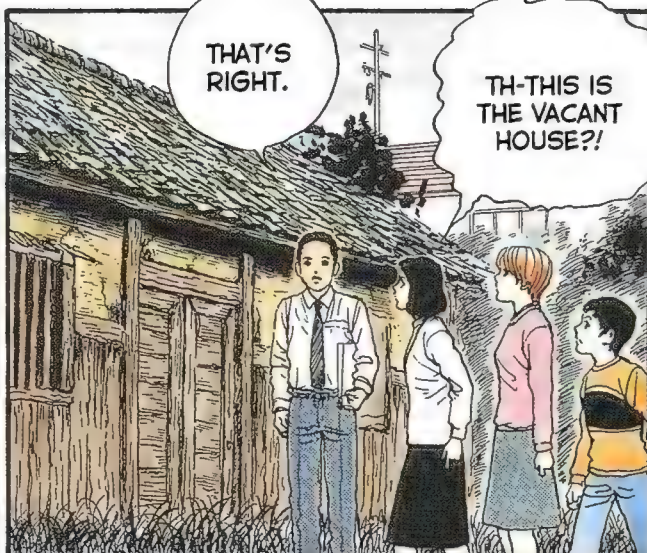






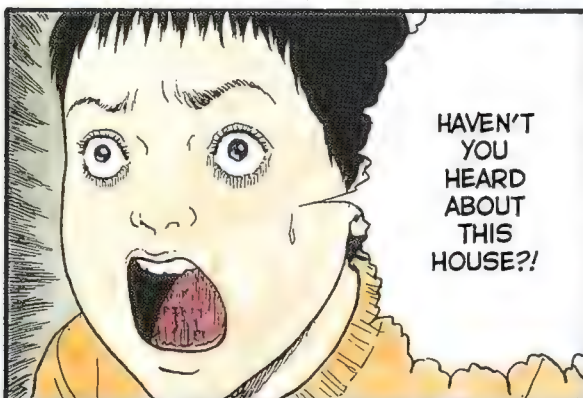
WE CAN'T
LIVE IN
THIS
DUMP!

BUT THIS
IS ONE OF
THE OLD
ROW
HOUSES!

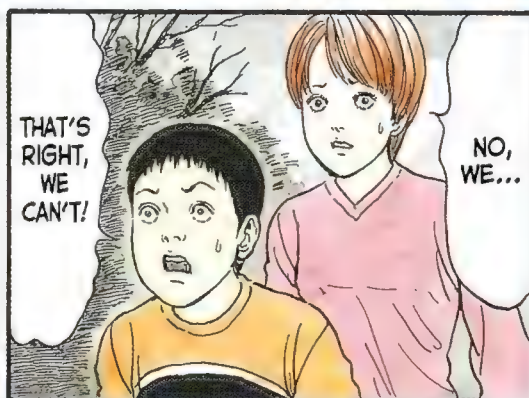


THAT'S
RIGHT.

TH-THIS IS
THE VACANT
HOUSE?!

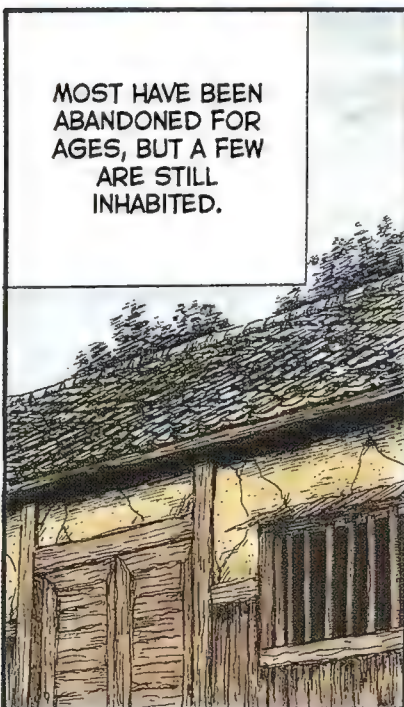


HAVEN'T
YOU
HEARD
ABOUT
THIS
HOUSE?!

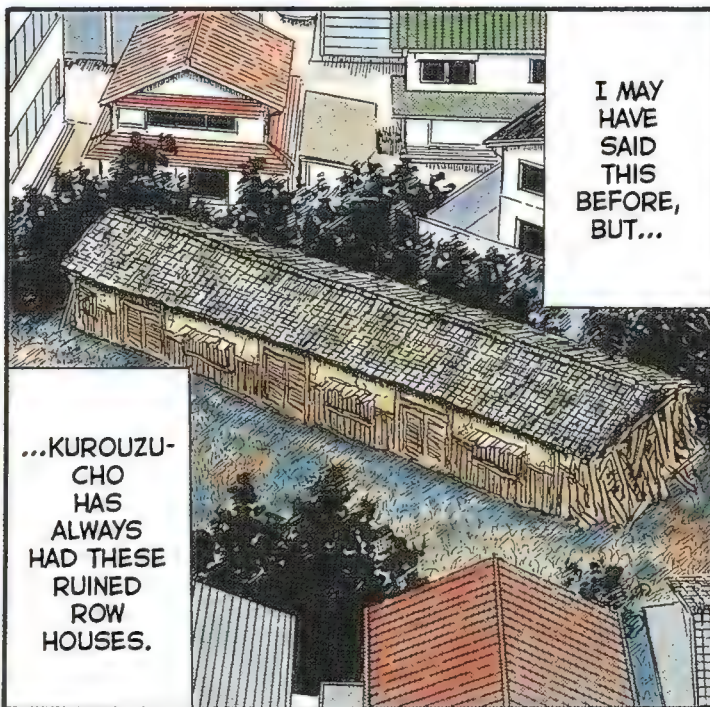


THAT'S
RIGHT,
WE
CAN'T!

NO,
WE...



MOST HAVE BEEN
ABANDONED FOR
AGES, BUT A FEW
ARE STILL
INHABITED.



I MAY
HAVE
SAID
THIS
BEFORE,
BUT...

...KUROUZU-
CHO
HAS
ALWAYS
HAD THESE
RUINED
ROW
HOUSES.



...IT'S ON THIRD STREET, AND SAID TO BE HAUNTED BY A MONSTER WHO CAME OUT AT NIGHT.

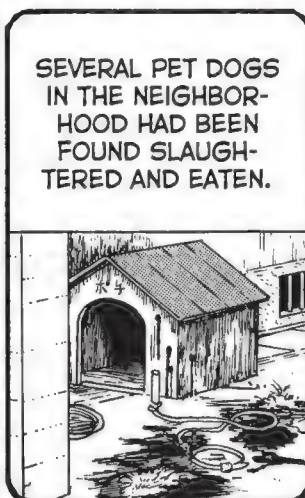
AS FOR THIS PARTICULAR HOUSE...



NEVER MIND THAT NONSENSE! WE'RE NOT GOING TO LIVE IN THIS WRECK!



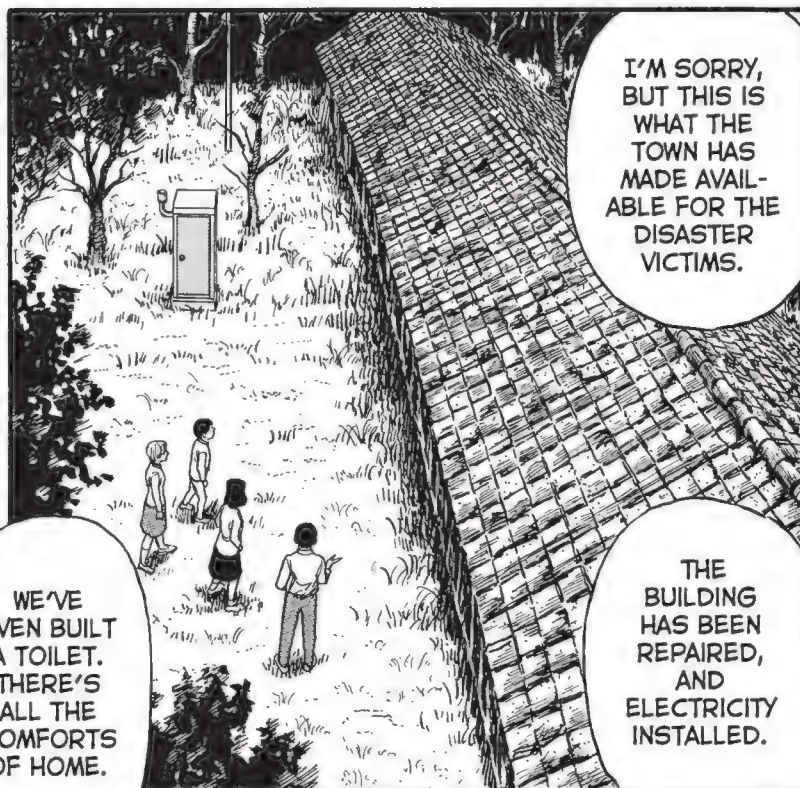
HA HA HA... THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS MONSTERS.



SEVERAL PET DOGS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD HAD BEEN FOUND SLAUGHTERED AND EATEN.



THERE ARE THREE APARTMENTS... TWO ARE ALREADY OCCUPIED.



I'M SORRY, BUT THIS IS WHAT THE TOWN HAS MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE DISASTER VICTIMS.

WE'VE EVEN BUILT A TOILET. THERE'S ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME.

THE BUILDING HAS BEEN REPAIRED, AND ELECTRICITY INSTALLED.

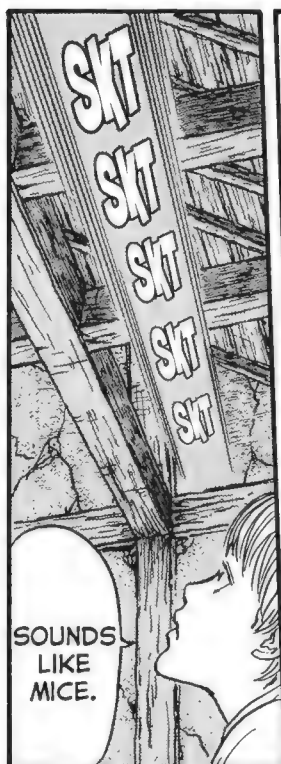


HE MADE
IT CLEAR
WE HAD
NO
CHOICE.

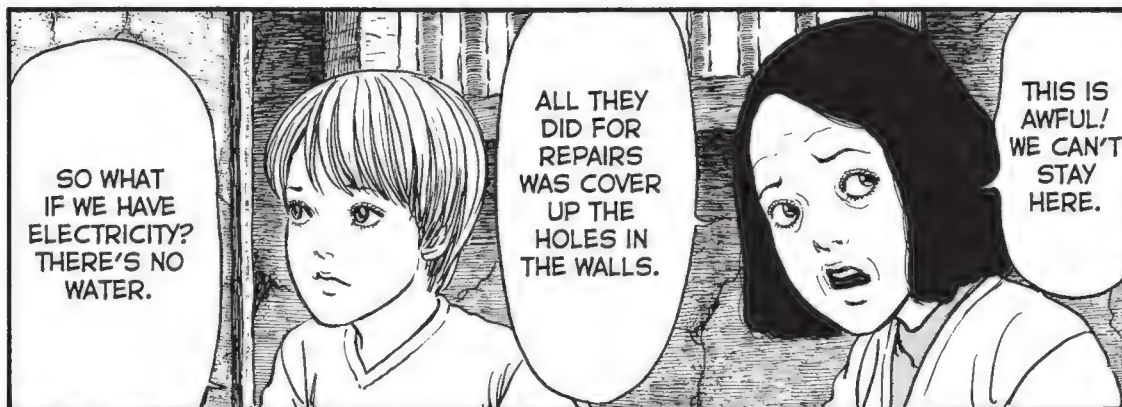
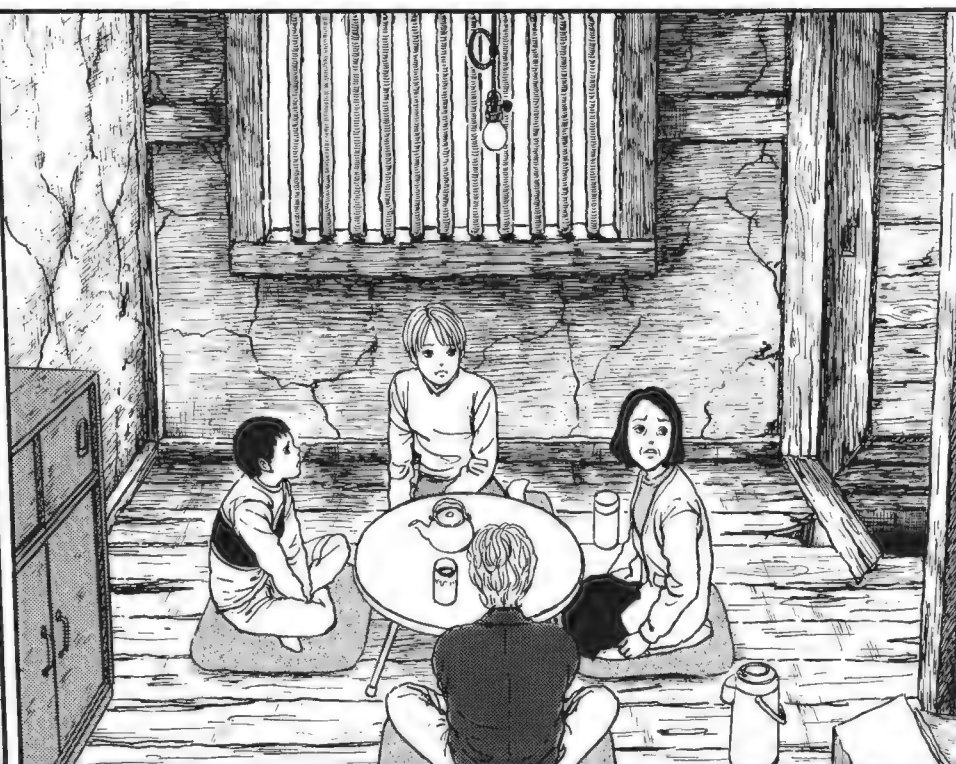


IF YOU
WANT TO
FIND
ANOTHER
PLACE, I
GUARANTEE
IT WILL BE
WORSE.

ALL
THE OTHER
HOUSES
ARE
FILLED BY
DISASTER
VICTIMS.



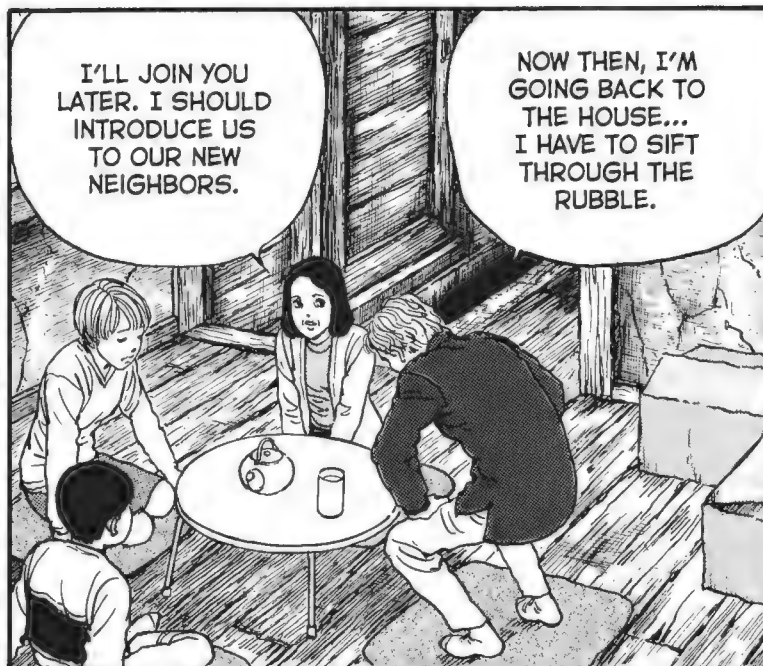
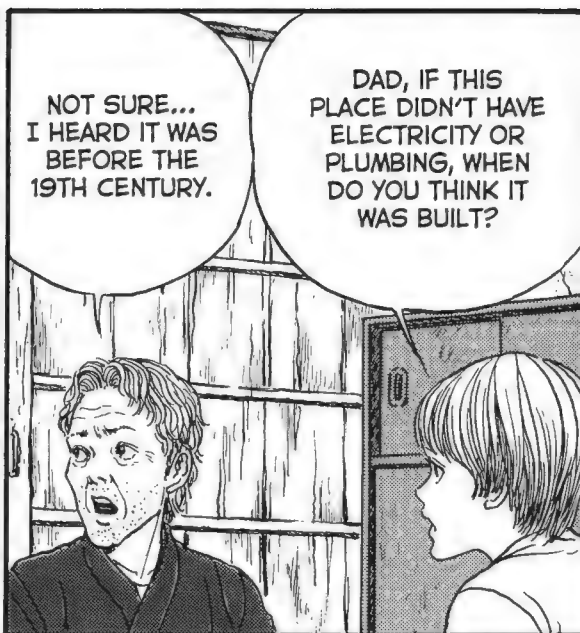
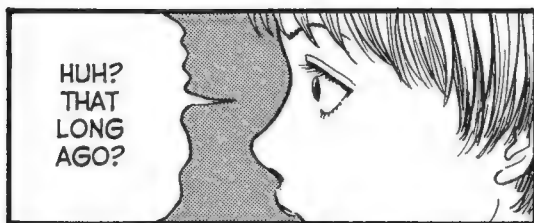
SOUNDS
LIKE
MICE.



SO WHAT
IF WE HAVE
ELECTRICITY?
THERE'S NO
WATER.

ALL THEY
DID FOR
REPAIRS
WAS COVER
UP THE
HOLES IN
THE WALLS.

THIS IS
AWFUL!
WE CAN'T
STAY
HERE.





TERRIBLE
STORM,
WASN'T
IT?

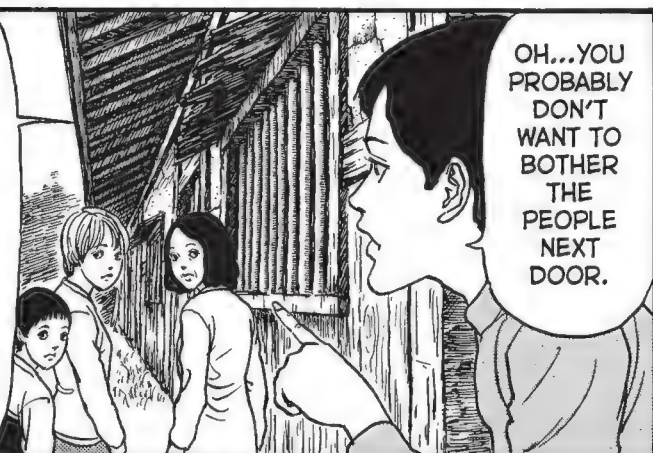
OH, HELLO.
MY NAME IS
WAKABAYA-
SHI.



GOOD
AFTERNOON!
WE'RE THE
GOSHIMAS.
WE JUST
MOVED IN.



THEY'RE
SQUAT-
TERS.
THEY
MOVED IN
WITHOUT
PERMIS-
SION
LONG
BEFORE
THE
STORM.



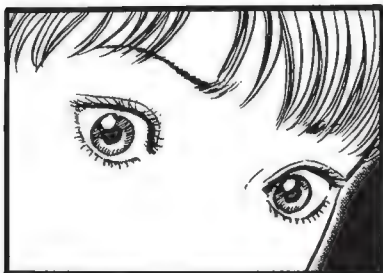
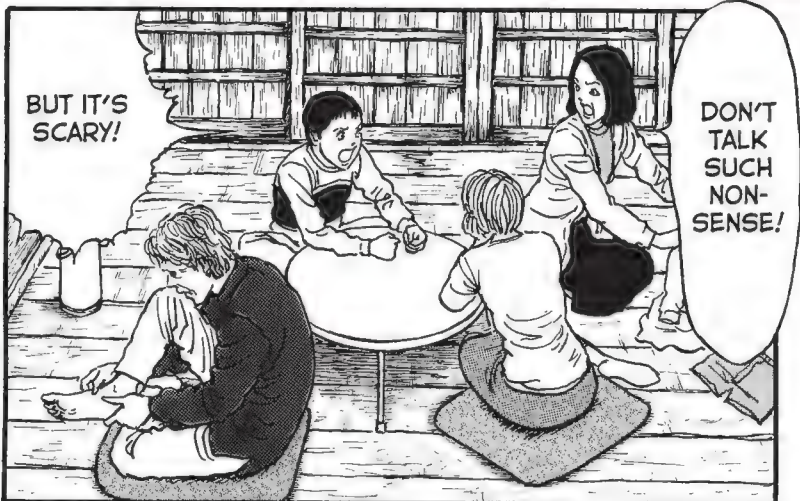
OH...YOU
PROBABLY
DON'T
WANT TO
BOTHER
THE
PEOPLE
NEXT
DOOR.

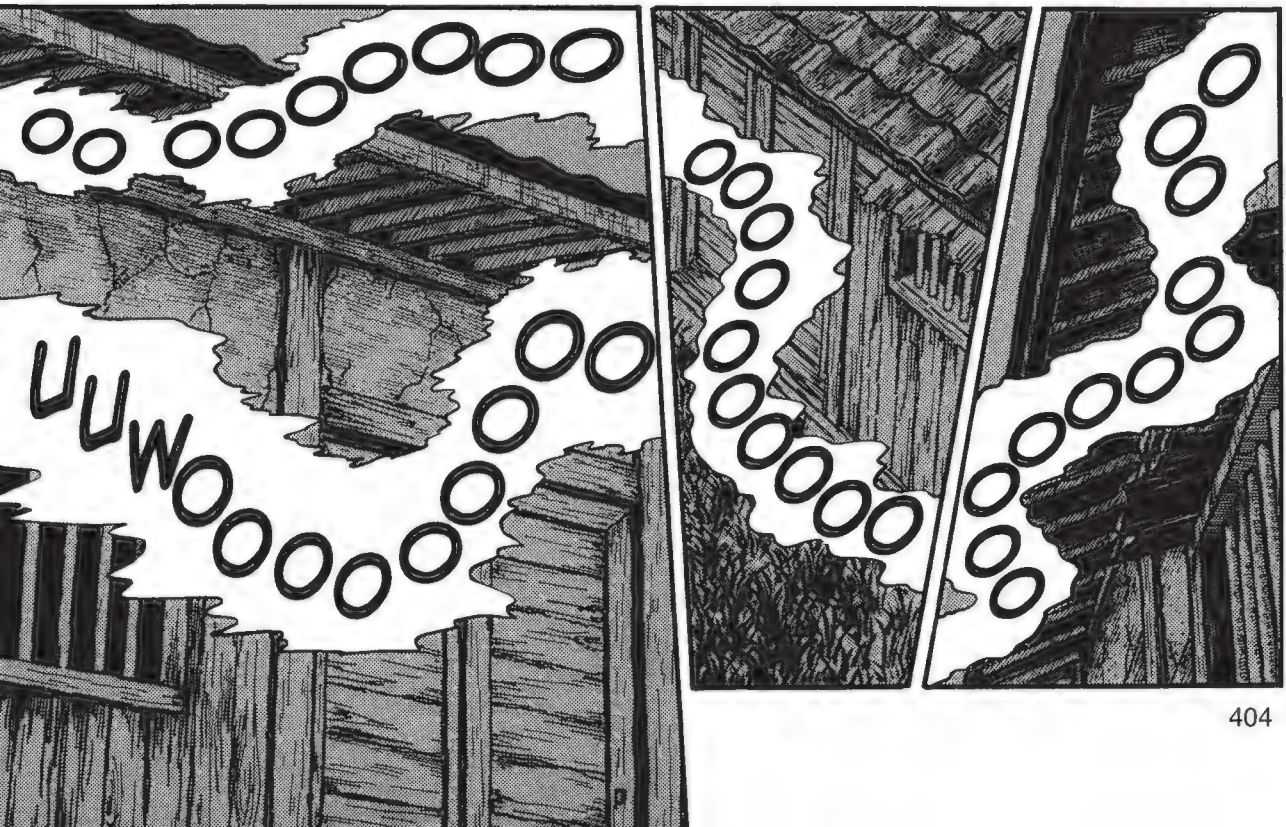
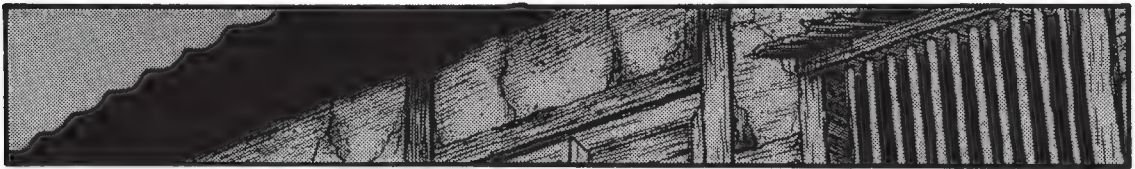
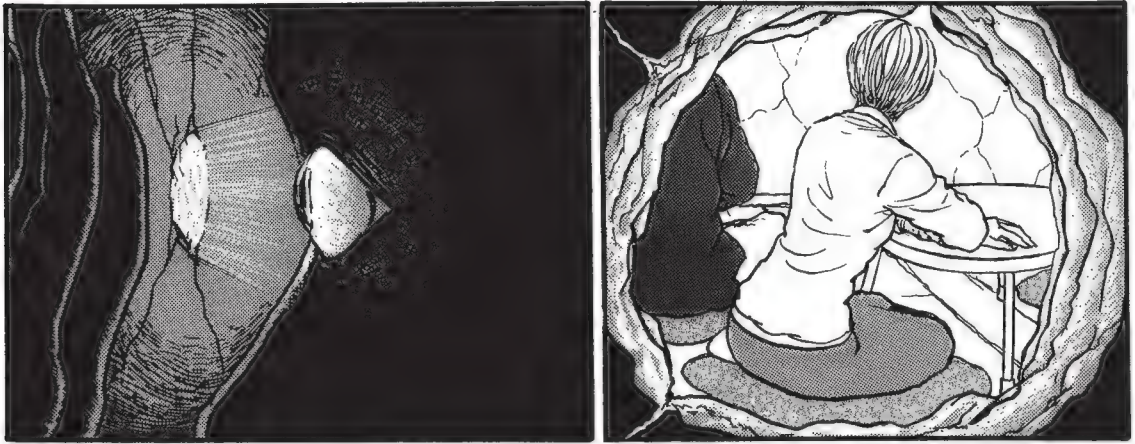
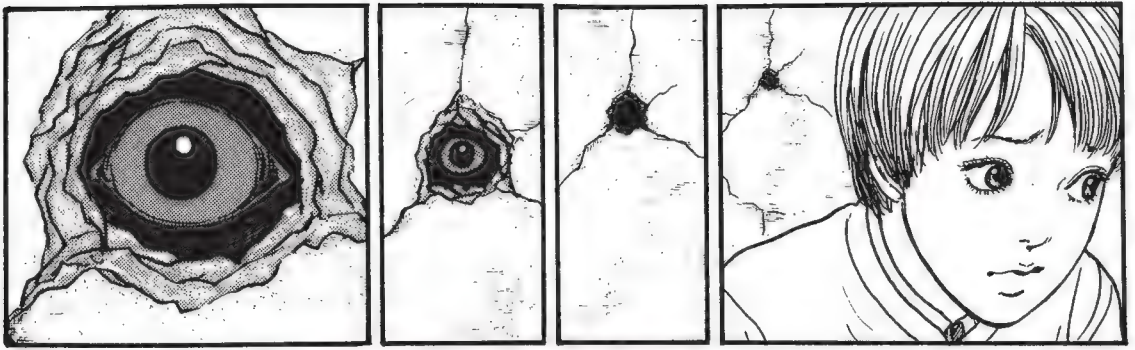


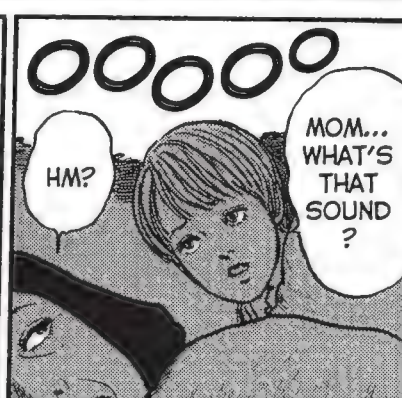
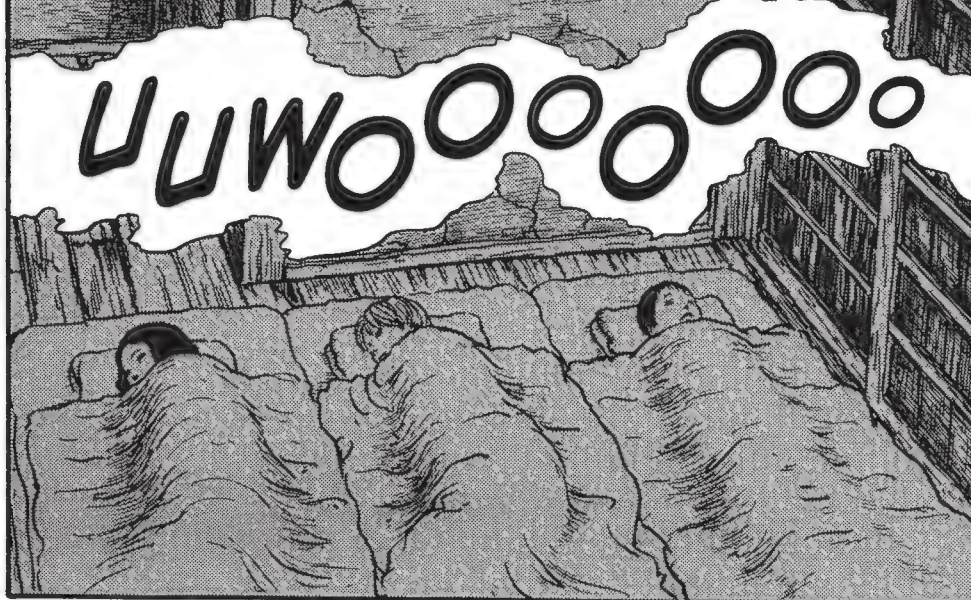
...

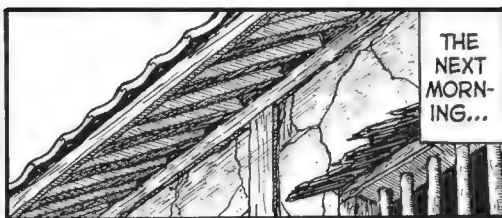


KNOCK
KNOCK











BUT NO ONE KNOWS
WHAT'S WRONG
WITH HIM.
THE OLD WOMAN
WON'T LET ANYONE
SEE HIM.

APPARENTLY,
THE SON HAS A
SERIOUS MEDICAL
CONDITION.
THAT WAS HIM,
CRYING FROM
THE PAIN.

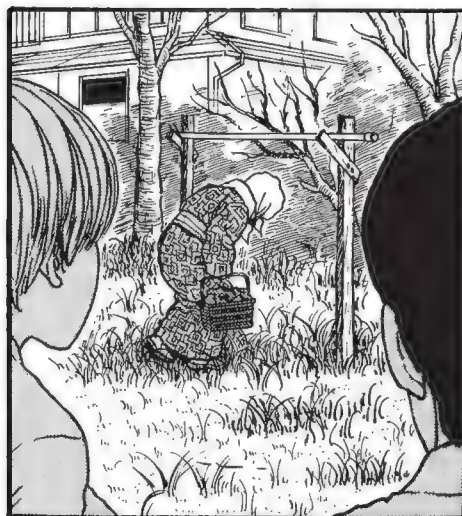


...THAT
WOULD
EXPLAIN THE
RUMORS
ABOUT A
MONSTER.

IF HE
LOOKS
BAD
ENOUGH...

CREAK

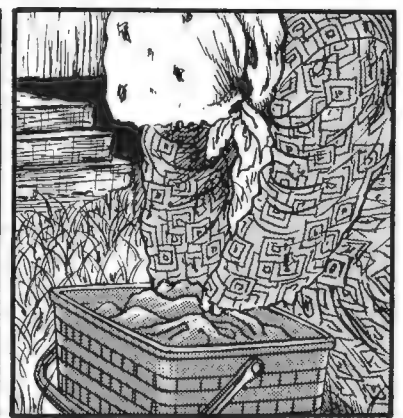
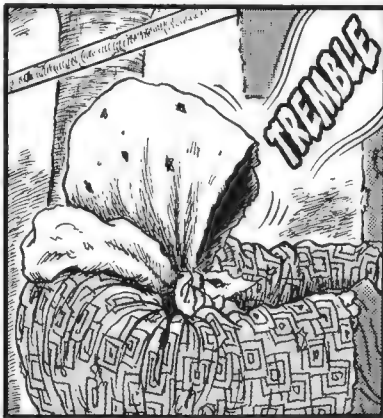
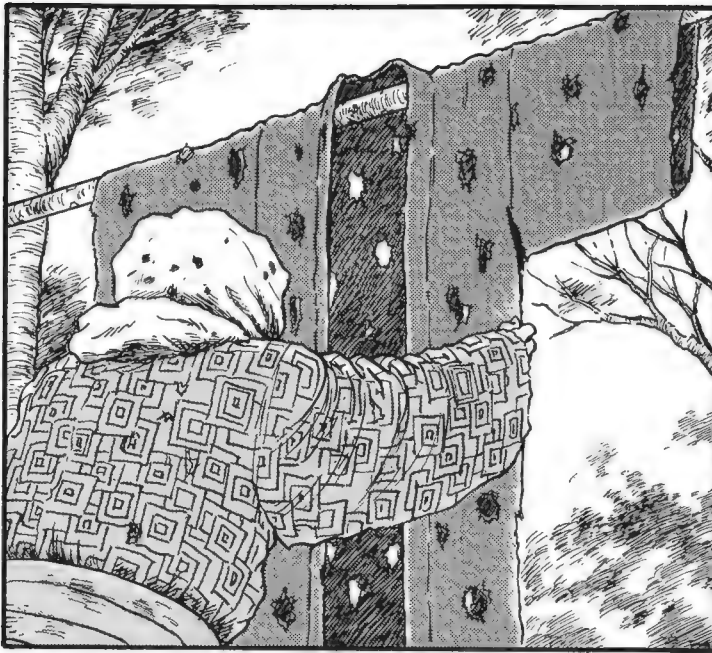
THEY SAY
HE'S
DEFORMED
DUE TO HIS
ILLNESS.

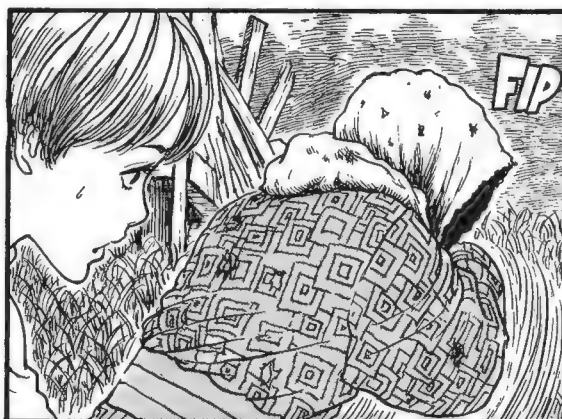
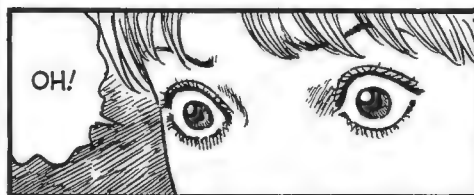


...THERE
SHE IS
NOW.

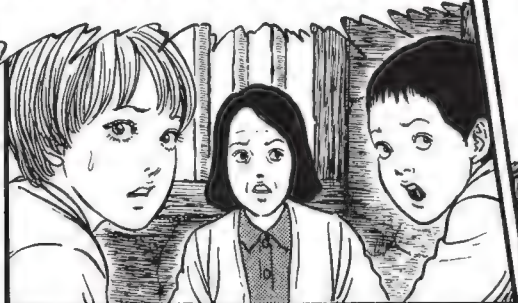
SPEAK-
ING OF
WHICH...







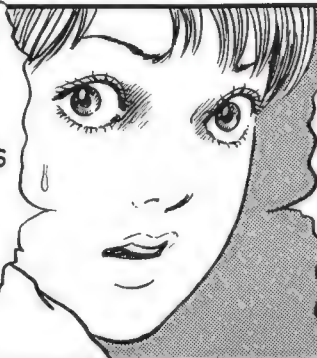
AWAAAH



AWAAAH

THAT
AFTER-
NOON...

AND IT
SOUNDS
BAD!



NO!
THAT'S A
DIFFERENT
NOISE!
IT'S THE
OLD WOMAN
CRYING!



IT'S
HOWL-
ING
AGAIN!!

AWAAAH

KIRIE!



SHE
MIGHT
BE IN
TROU-
BLE!

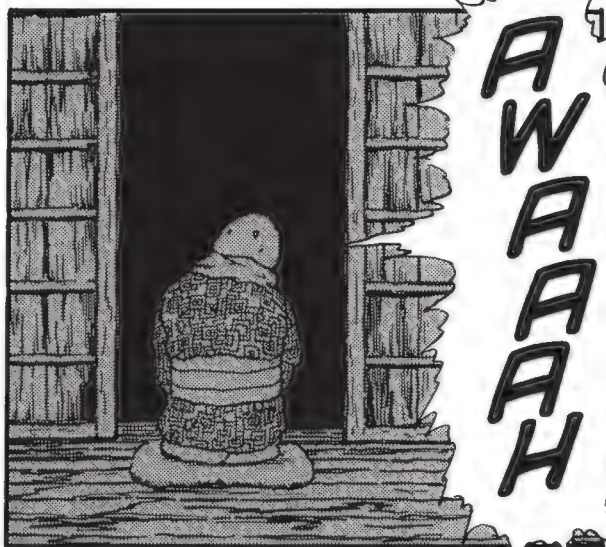
EX-
CUSE
ME!



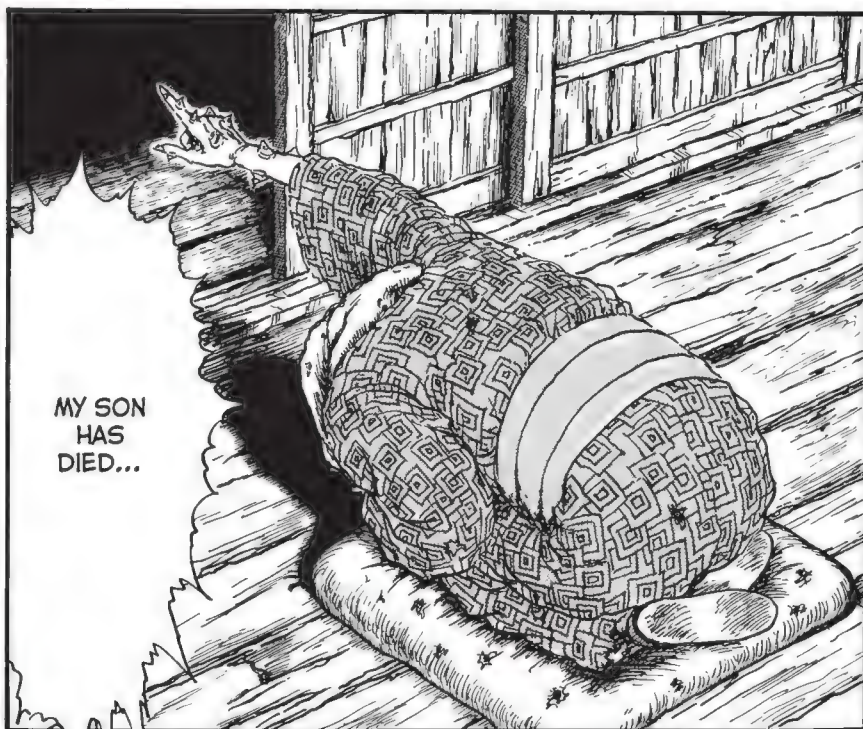
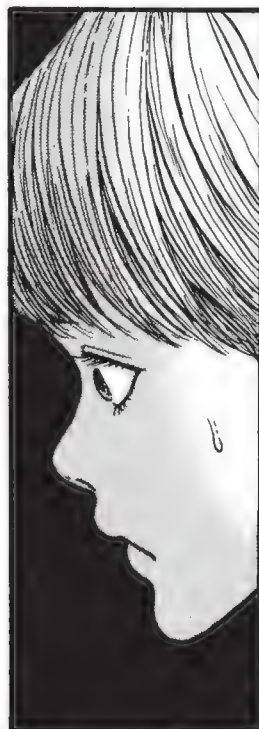
AWAAAH



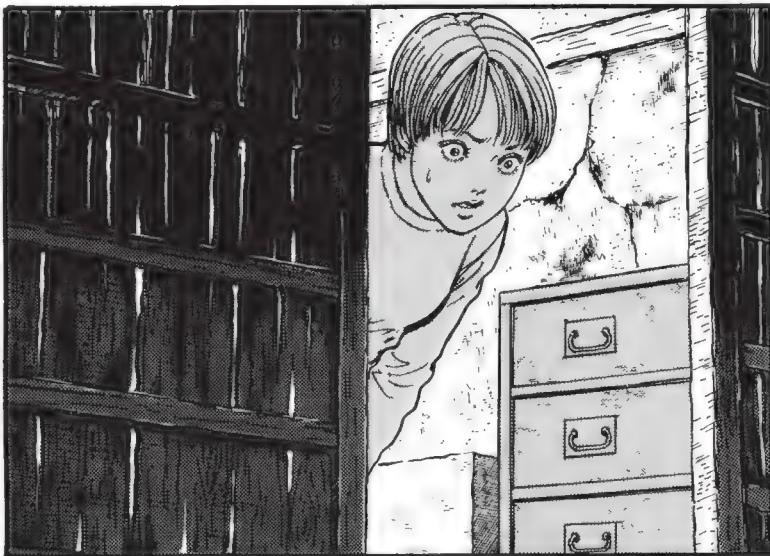
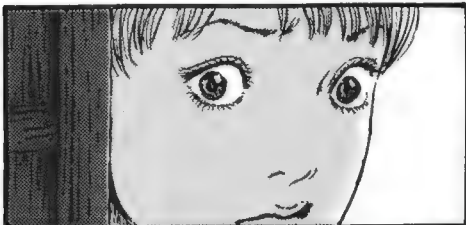
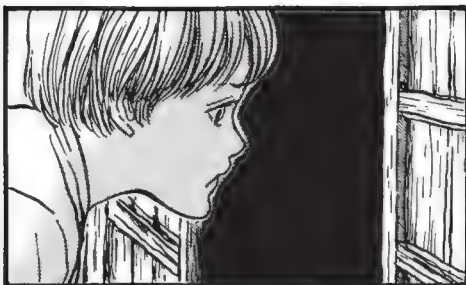
ARE
YOU
ALL
RIGHT
?!



MY SON...
MY SON...

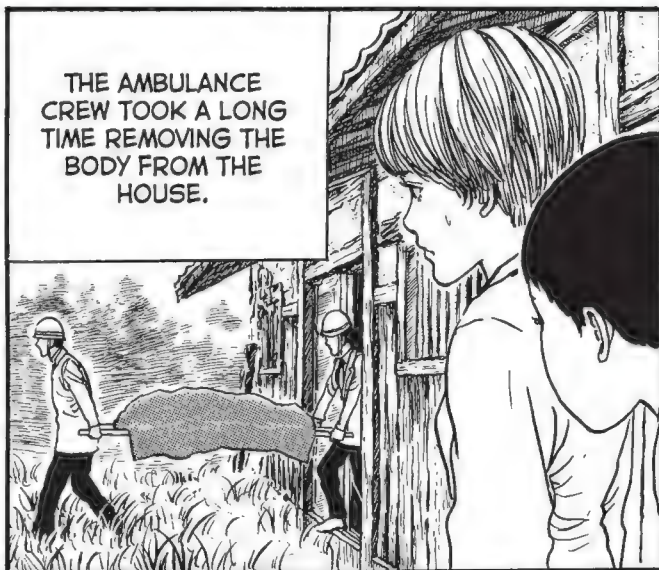


MY SON
HAS
DIED...



THE
SON HAD
SUFFERED
FROM THE
SAME
THING.

DOCTORS
DIAGNOSED
THE OLD
WOMAN
WITH AN
UNKNOWN
SKIN
DISEASE,
AND KEPT
HER FOR
OBSERVA-
TION.



THE AMBULANCE
CREW TOOK A LONG
TIME REMOVING THE
BODY FROM THE
HOUSE.



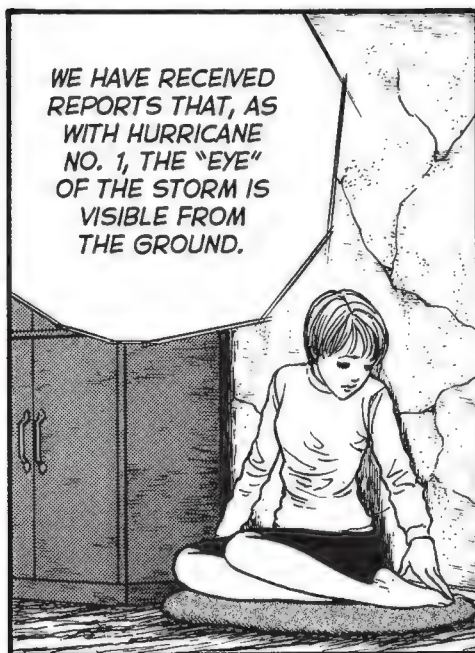


...I SEE.
PRETTY
HEAD-
STRONG,
AREN'T
YOU?

HMM...



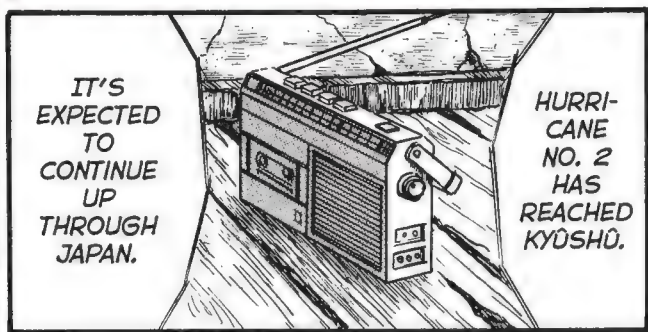
I'M
SORRY,
I'D
RATHER
NOT.



WE HAVE RECEIVED
REPORTS THAT, AS
WITH HURRICANE
NO. 1, THE "EYE"
OF THE STORM IS
VISIBLE FROM
THE GROUND.



IT'S
EXPECTED
TO
CONTINUE
UP
THROUGH
JAPAN.



HURRI-
CANE
NO. 2
HAS
REACHED
KYŪSHŪ.



THEY
HURT!

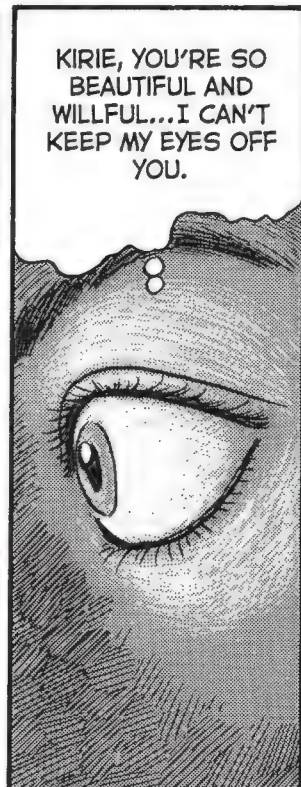
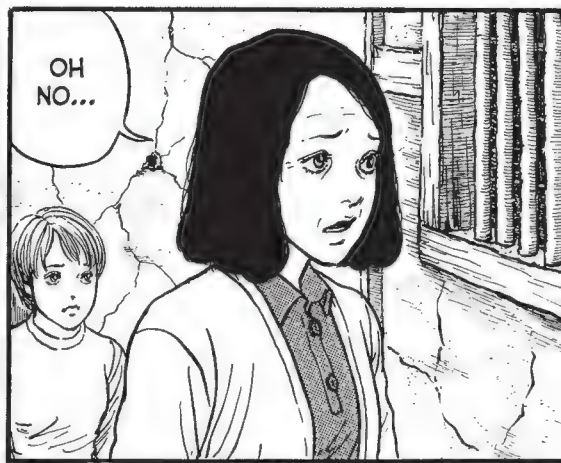
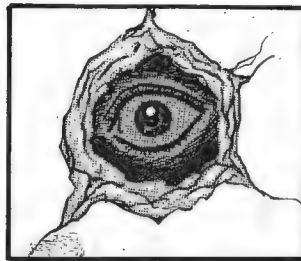
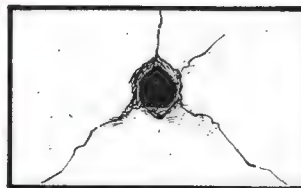
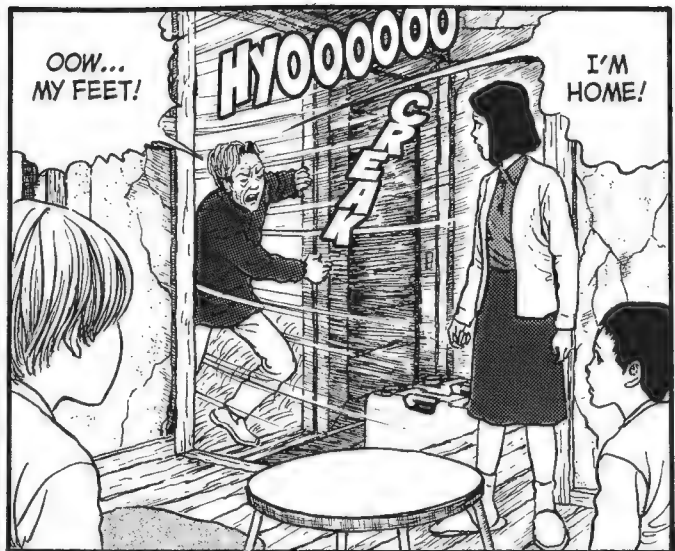
ME TOO,
ON MY
HANDS!

YOU HAVE
THEM?
SO DO I.



LOTS OF
THEM...

THERE
ARE
WARTS
ON MY
FEET...





DAMN,
WHAT'S
WITH MY
HAND?

MAYBE
NEAR HER
BED...



?!



IT
HURTS
!

THE
STORM'S
REALLY
RAGING.

AARGH
...





THOSE
THINGS
ON MY
FEET!



AHH!
WHAT'S
THIS?!



W-WE CAN'T
GO TO THE
HOSPITAL IN
THIS STORM...

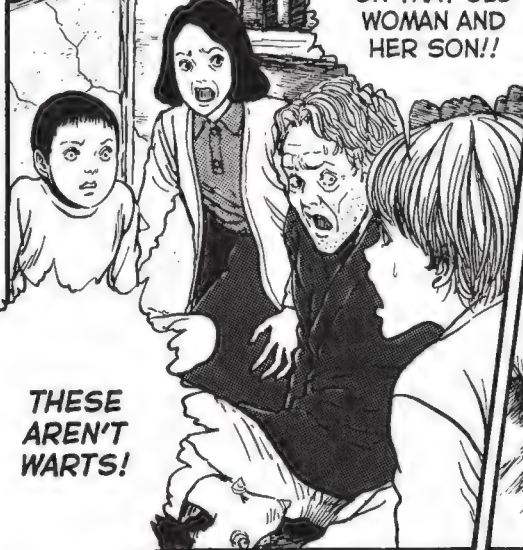
IT
HURTS!
IT
HURTS!



WEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

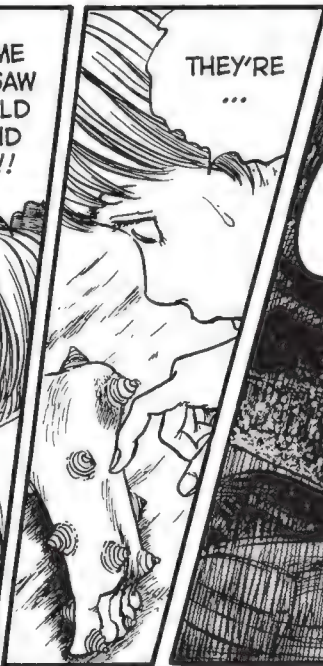
CRRRACK

HYOOO



...THE SAME
THINGS I SAW
ON THAT OLD
WOMAN AND
HER SON!!

THESE
AREN'T
WARTS!



THEY'RE
...



CRASH





WE MUST
DO SOME-
THING,
KIRIE!

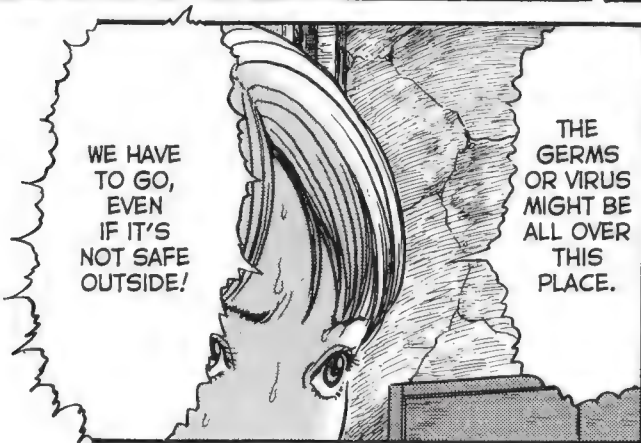


PLEASE
LIE
STILL,
DEAR.

EEEEOOOO

AAAH...
OWWW...

IT
HURTS
!

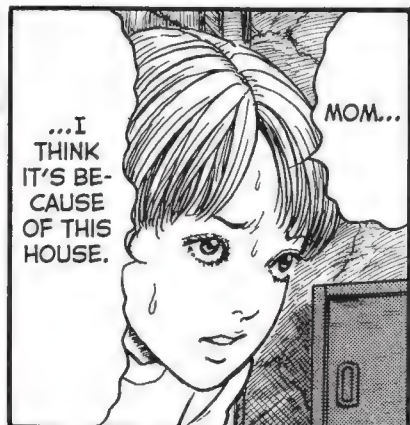


WE HAVE
TO GO,
EVEN
IF IT'S
NOT SAFE
OUTSIDE!

THE
GERMS
OR VIRUS
MIGHT BE
ALL OVER
THIS
PLACE.



WHAT?



MOM...

...I
THINK
IT'S BE-
CAUSE
OF THIS
HOUSE.



THE
WIND'S
TOO
STRONG!

YOU
WON'T
MAKE IT!



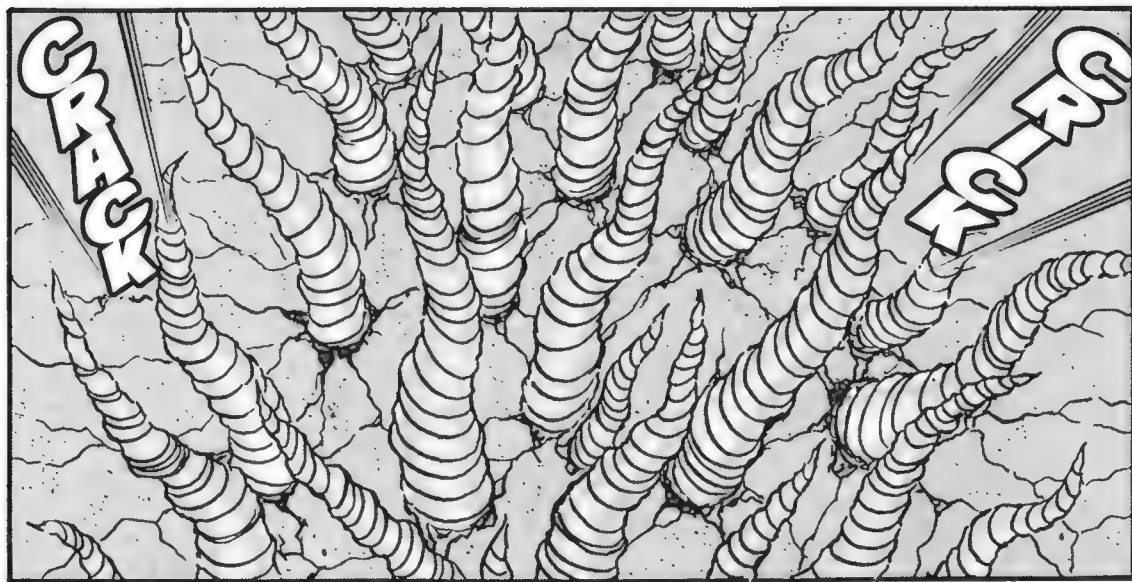
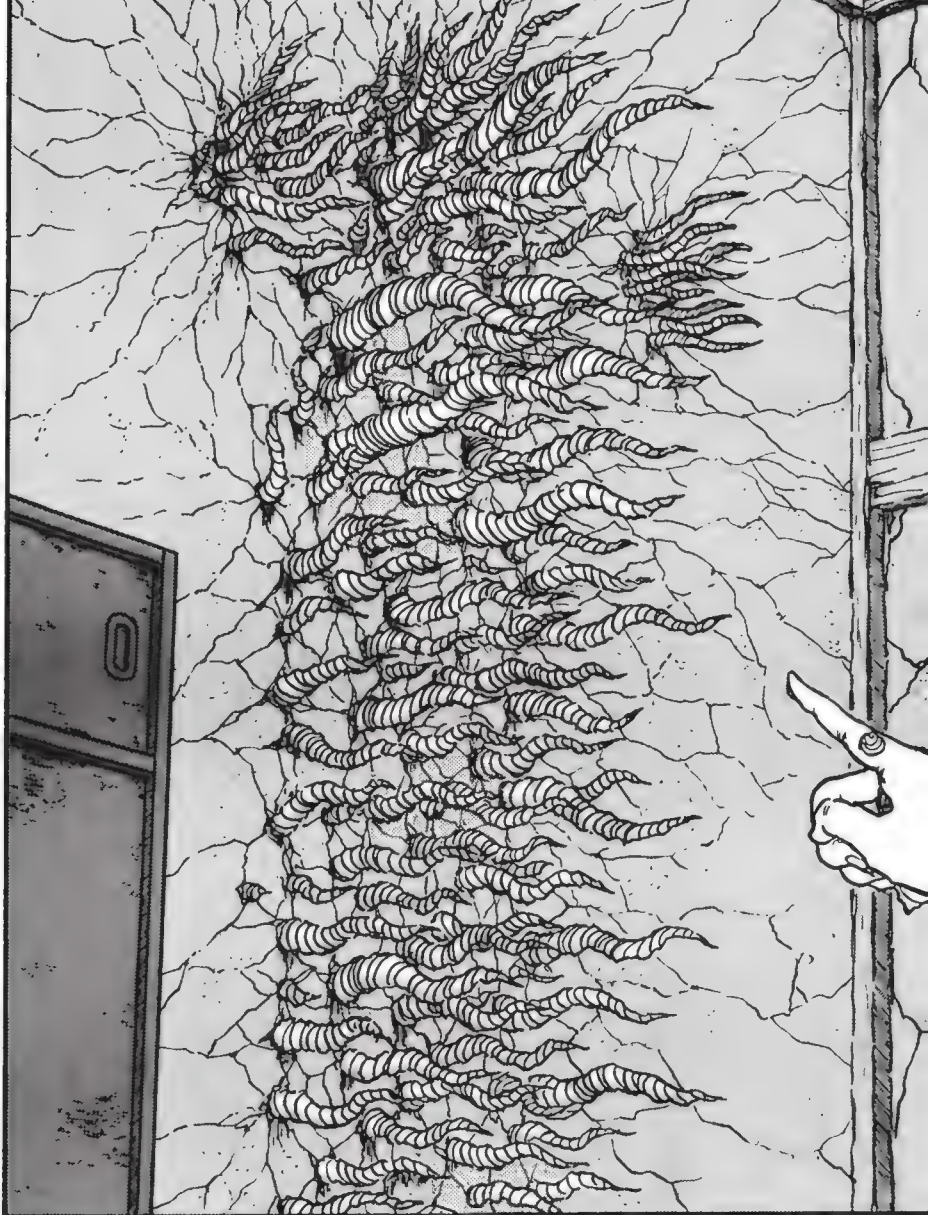
WHAT'S
THAT?!

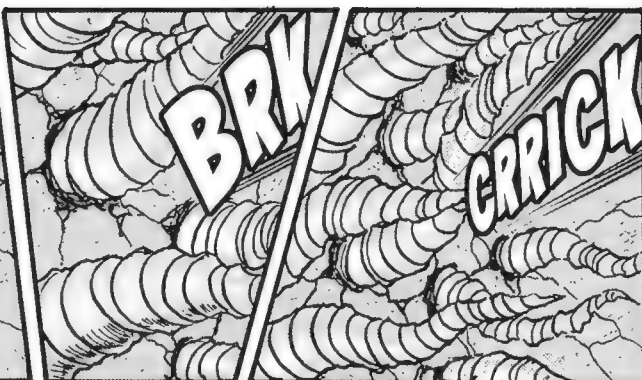
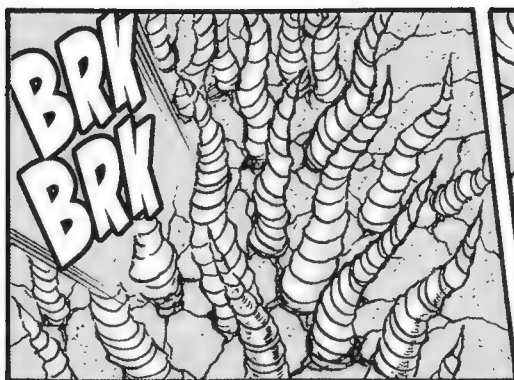
LOOK!

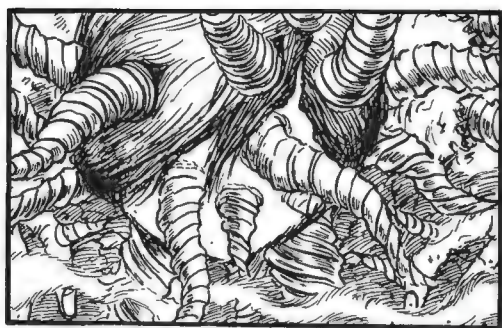


I...I'M
GOING
FOR
HELP!

S-STOP...
KIRIE!!

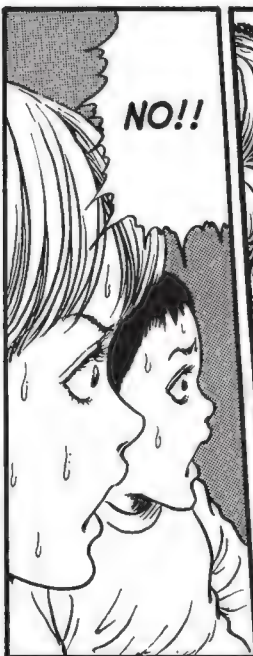
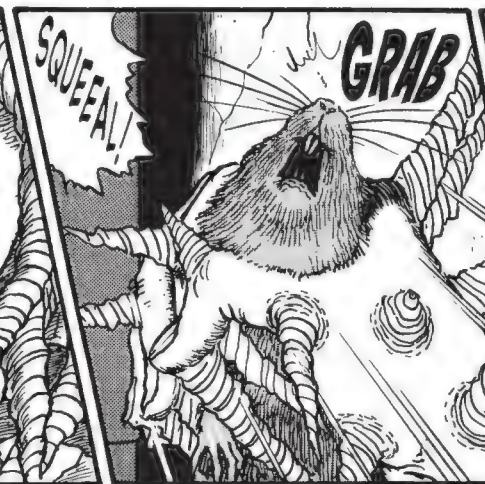


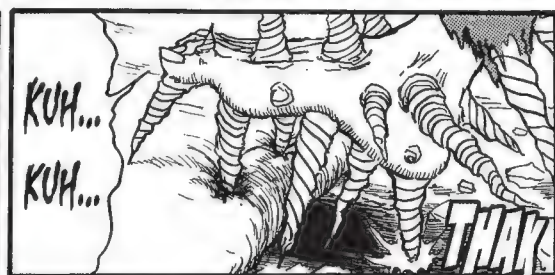
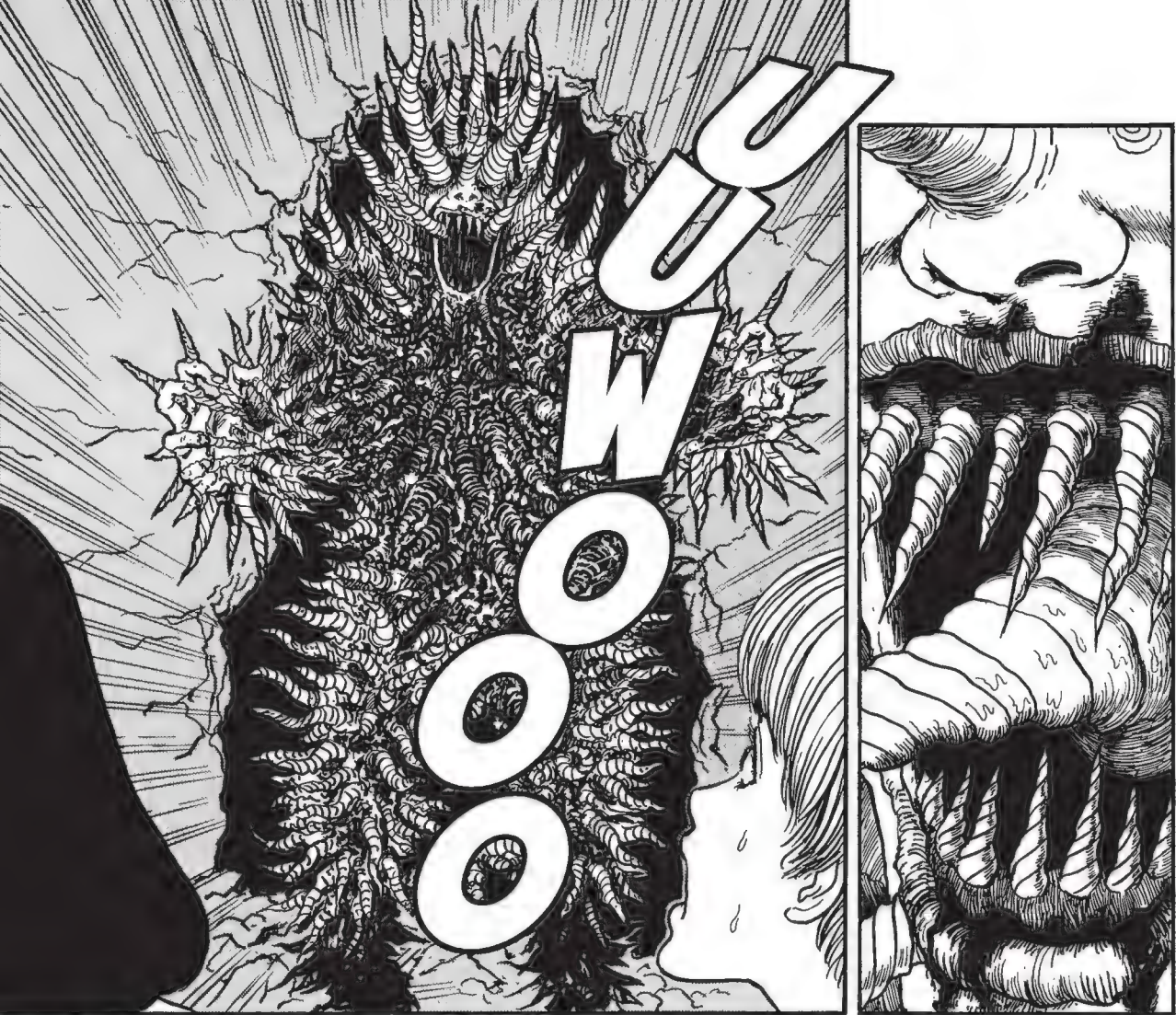


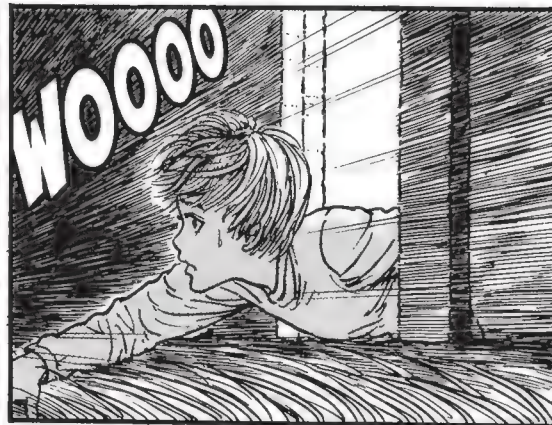
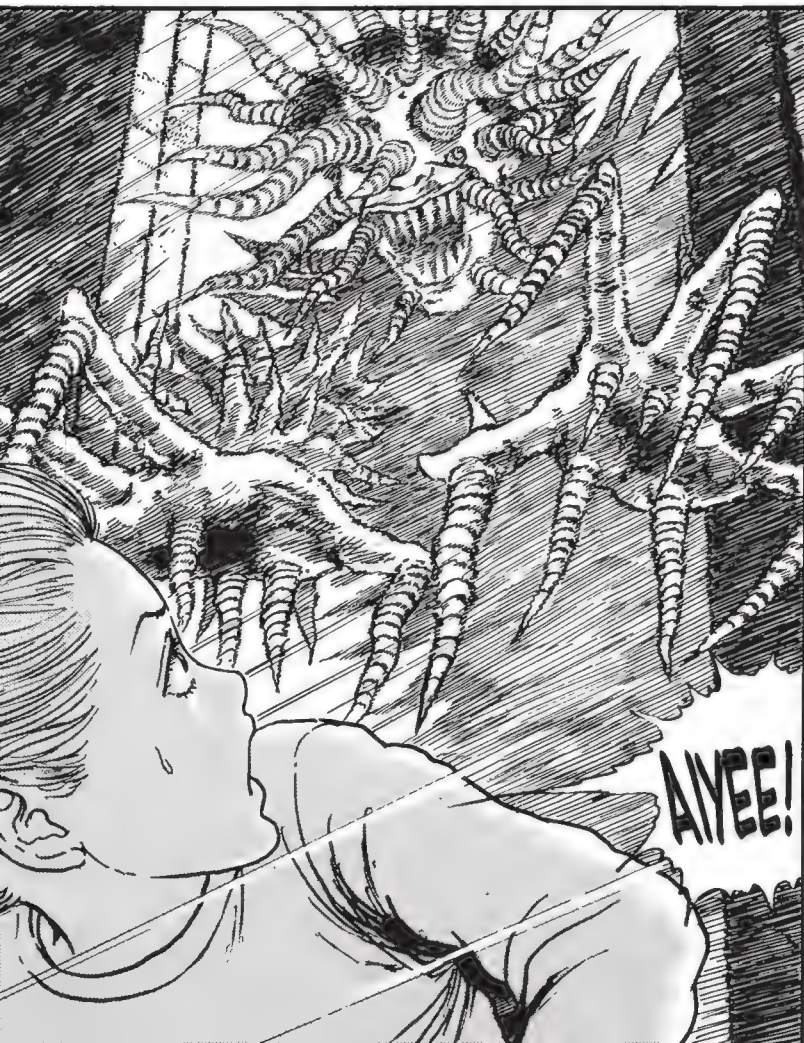
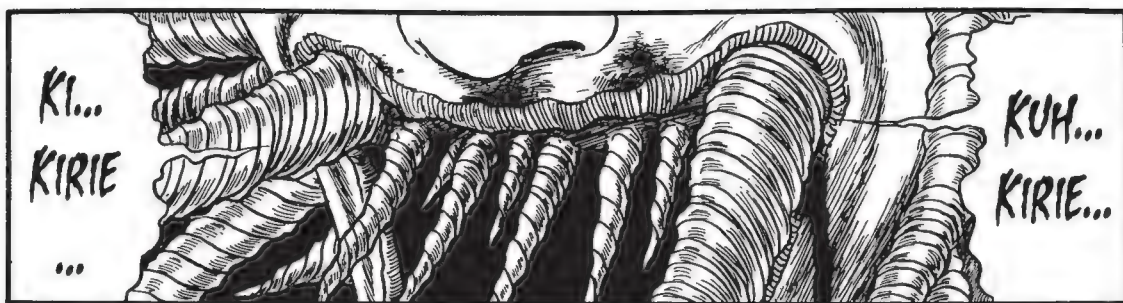


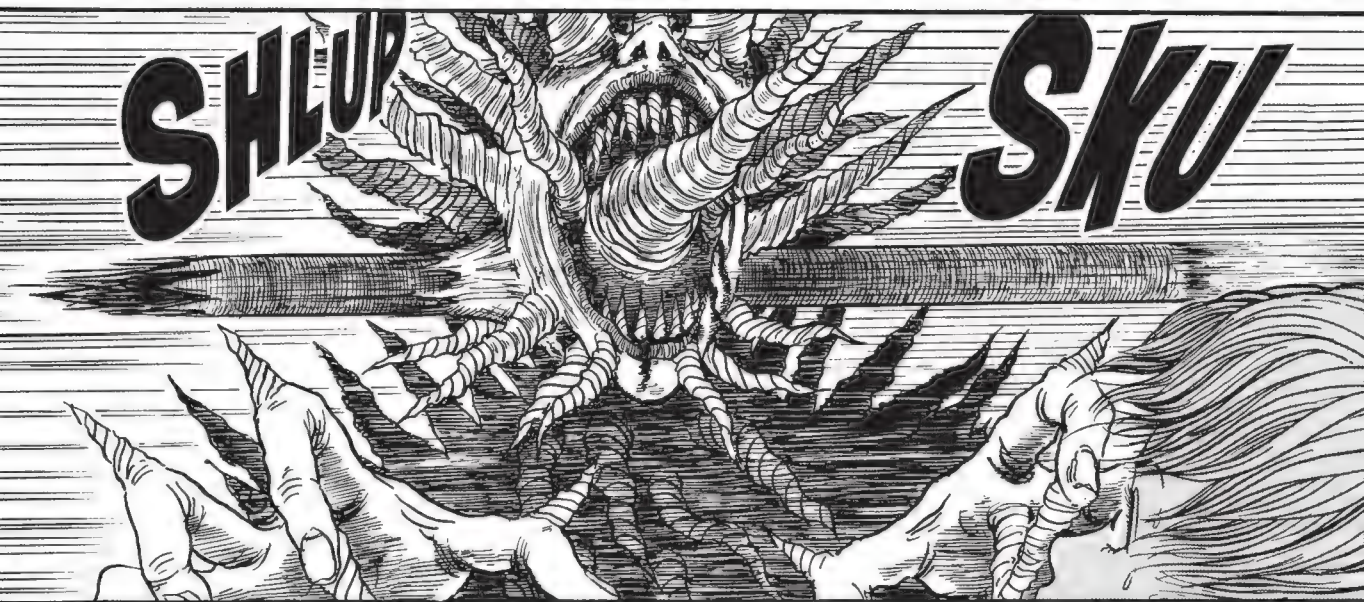
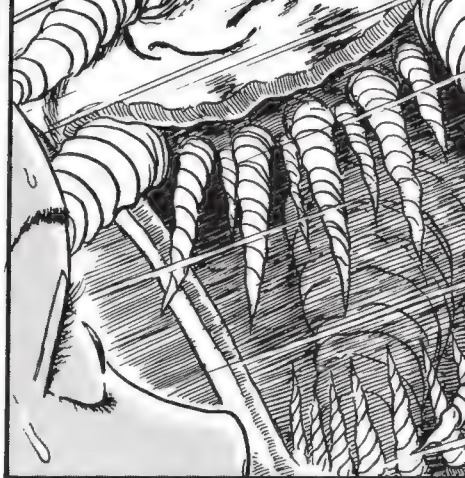
MR.
WAKABA-
YASHI?!

IS...
IS
THAT
...





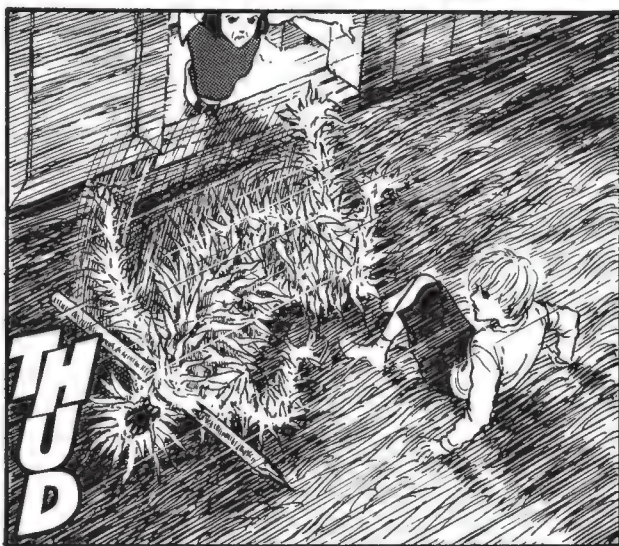




WE CRAWLED
OUR WAY OUT OF
THE ROW HOUSE,
AND THE
WARTS...
OR WHATEVER
THEY WERE...
WENT AWAY.



SOON AFTER,
HURRICANE
NO. 2 AND ITS
ROAR WERE
SUCKED INTO
DRAGONFLY
POND.



CHAPTER

14

BUTTERFLIES



POPULATION 6,000, TUCKED BETWEEN THE SEA AND THE MOUNTAINS.

IT'S A LITTLE TOWN WEST OF MIDORIYAMA-SHI, MS. MARUYAMA.

SO WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS KUROUZU-CHO, ANYWAY?

VRRRRUM

POPULATION 6,000, TUCKED BETWEEN THE SEA AND THE MOUNTAINS.

IT'S A LITTLE TOWN WEST OF MIDORIYAMA-SHI, MS. MARUYAMA.

SO WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS KUROUZU-CHO, ANYWAY?

VRRRRUM

POPULATION 6,000, TUCKED BETWEEN THE SEA AND THE MOUNTAINS.

IT'S A LITTLE TOWN WEST OF MIDORIYAMA-SHI, MS. MARUYAMA.

SO WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS KUROUZU-CHO, ANYWAY?

VRRRRUM

POPULATION 6,000, TUCKED BETWEEN THE SEA AND THE MOUNTAINS.

IT'S A LITTLE TOWN WEST OF MIDORIYAMA-SHI, MS. MARUYAMA.

SO WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS KUROUZU-CHO, ANYWAY?

VRRRRUM



IT'S
ANYONE'S
GUESS
WHAT'S
GOING ON.

...BUT
WITH THE
ONSLAUGHT
OF
HURRICANES
3 THROUGH
6, WE'VE
LOST ALL
CONTACT
WITH THE
INSIDE.



IT'S
ANYONE'S
GUESS
WHAT'S
GOING ON.

...BUT
WITH THE
ONSLAUGHT
OF
HURRICANES
3 THROUGH
6, WE'VE
LOST ALL
CONTACT
WITH THE
INSIDE.

AFTER HURRICANE NO. 1 AND NO. 2 THERE WERE REPORTS ON THE DAMAGE...

VRRM

I WISH THERE WERE MORE I COULD TELL YOU.

AFTER HURRICANE NO. 1 AND NO. 2 THERE WERE REPORTS ON THE DAMAGE...

VRRM

I WISH THERE WERE MORE I COULD TELL YOU.

AFTER HURRICANE NO. 1 AND NO. 2 THERE WERE REPORTS ON THE DAMAGE...

VRRM

I WISH THERE WERE MORE I COULD TELL YOU.

...AT THE
END OF
THE
TUNNEL.

THERE IT
IS...

...AT THE
END OF
THE
TUNNEL.

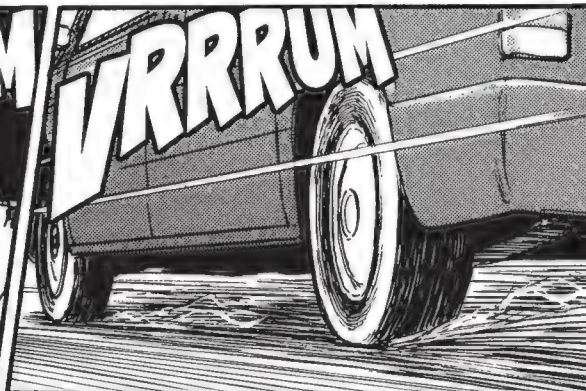
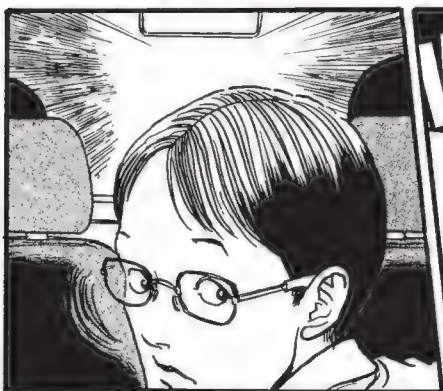
THERE IT
IS...

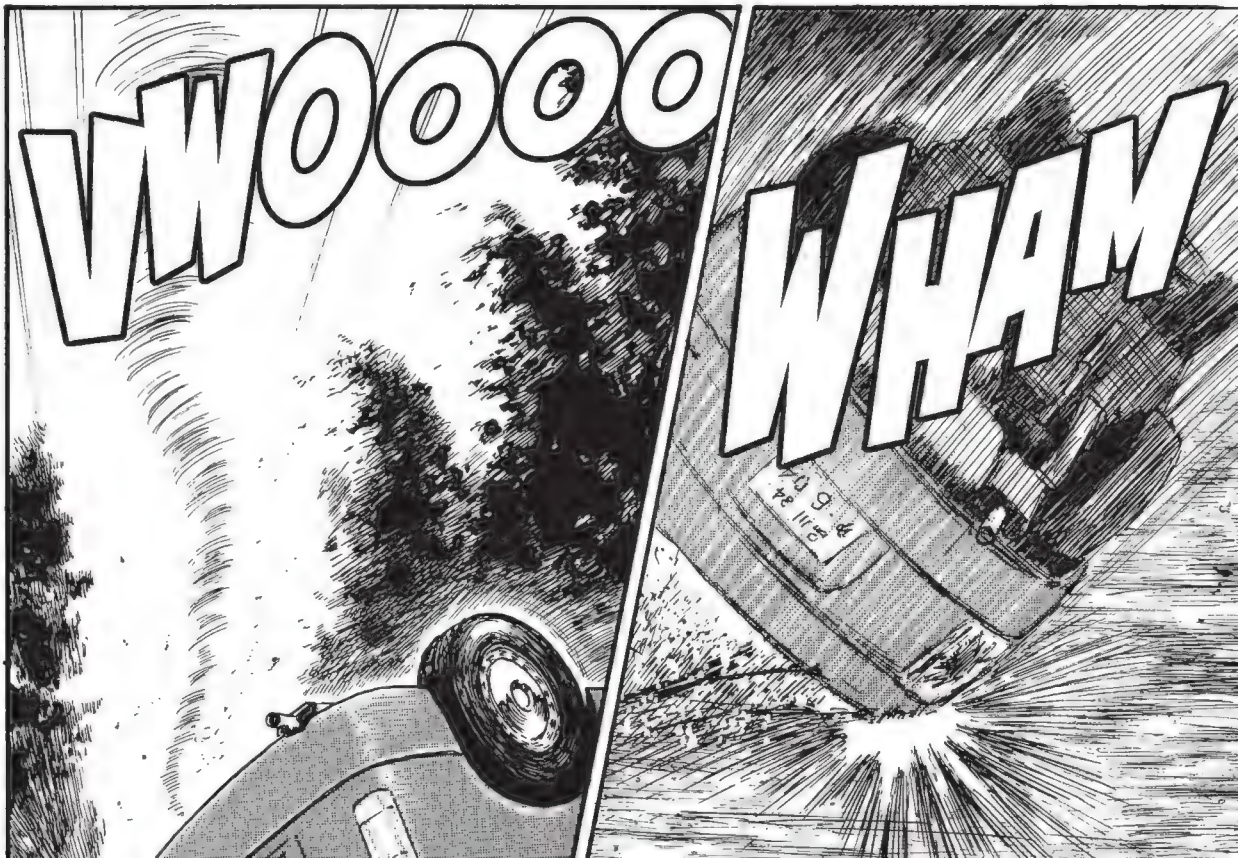
THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS THEY SENT US TO FIND OUT.

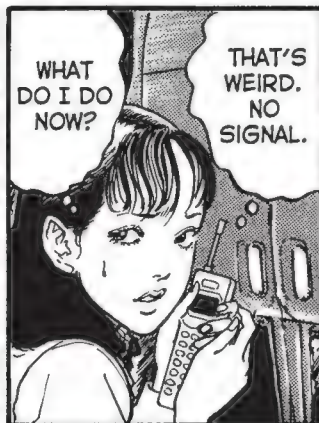
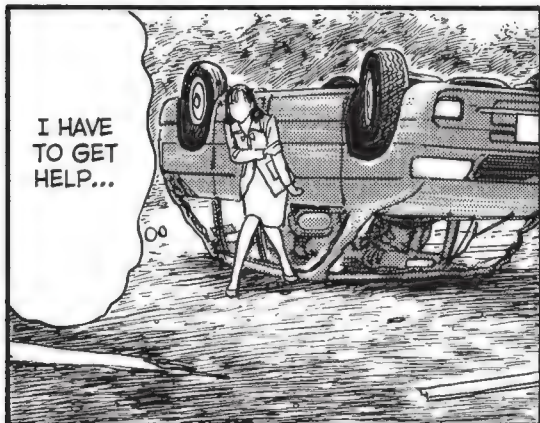
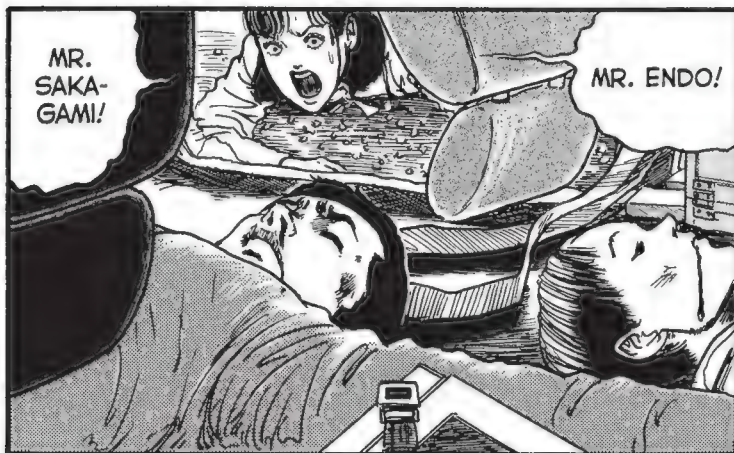
WE CAN'T BE THE FIRST REPORTERS TO GO IN. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS?

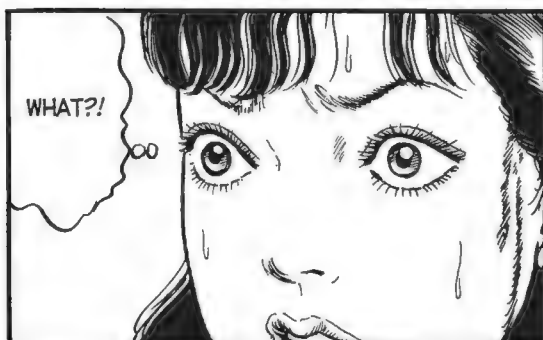
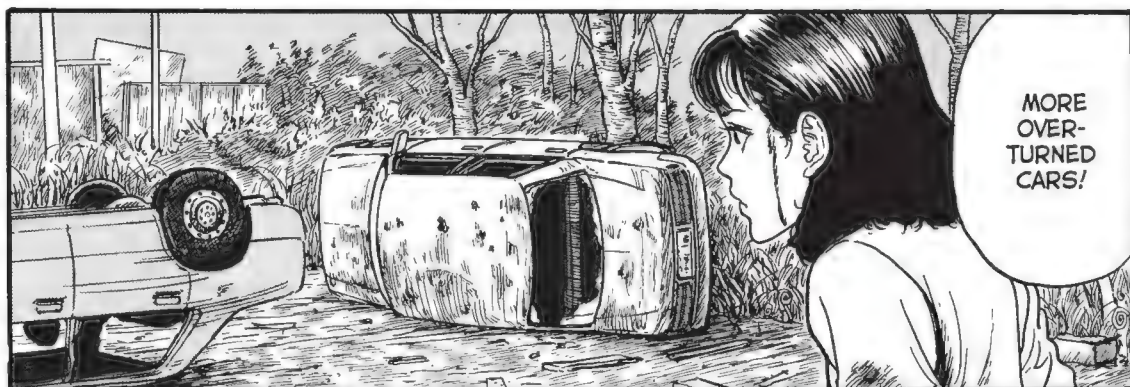
THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS THEY SENT US TO FIND OUT.

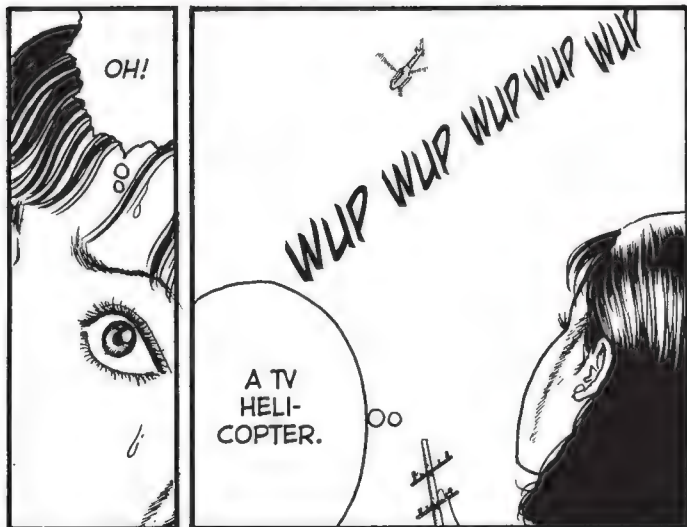
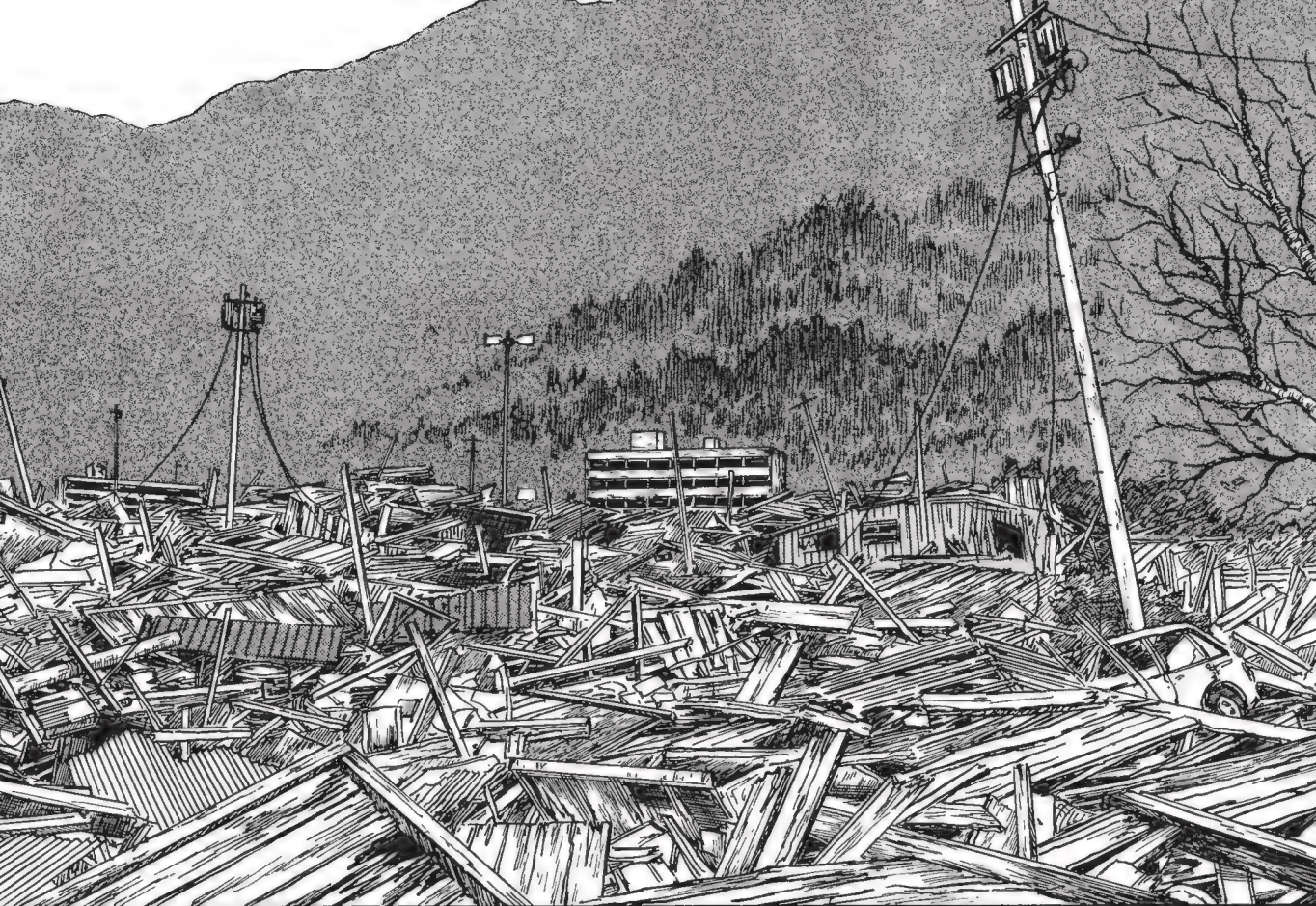
WE CAN'T BE THE FIRST REPORTERS TO GO IN. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS?

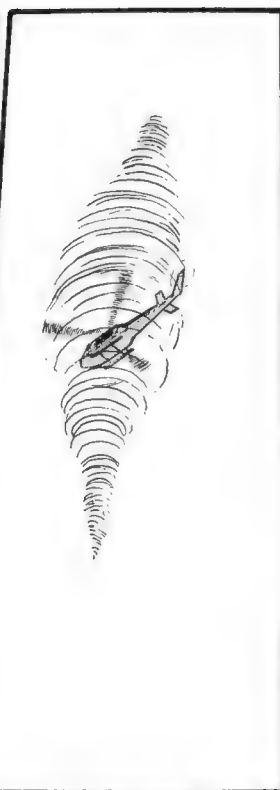
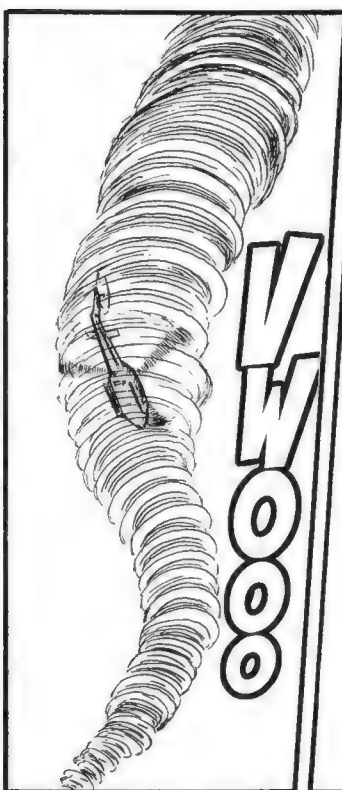












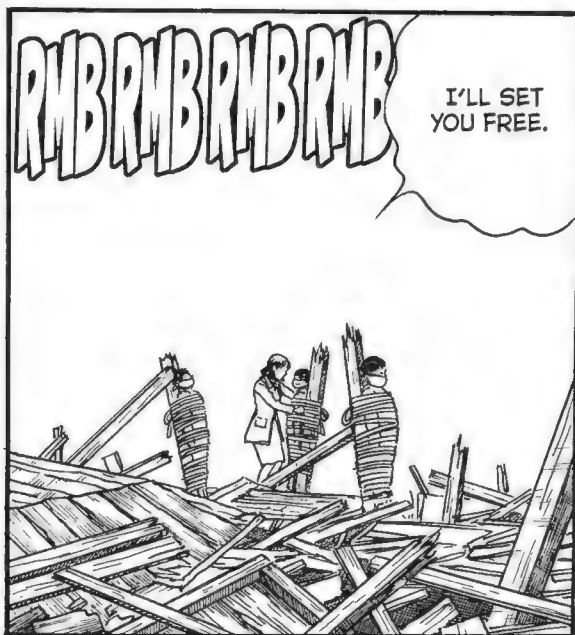
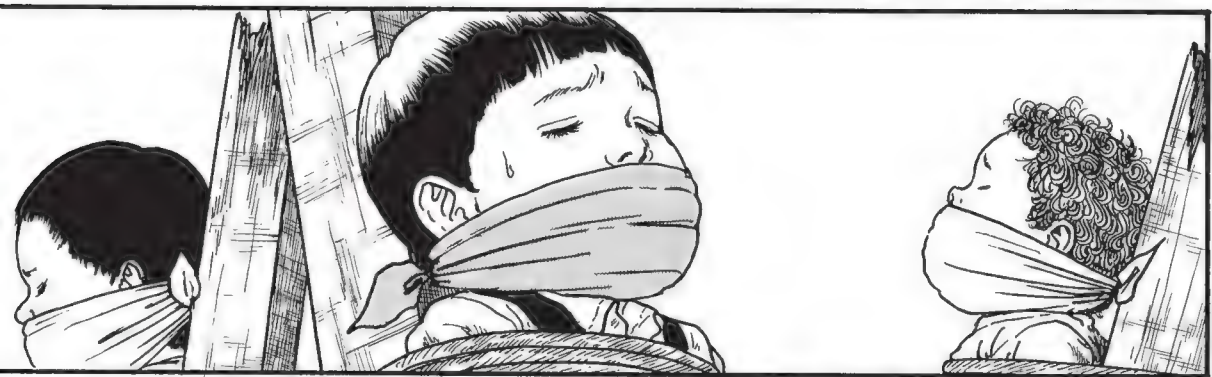
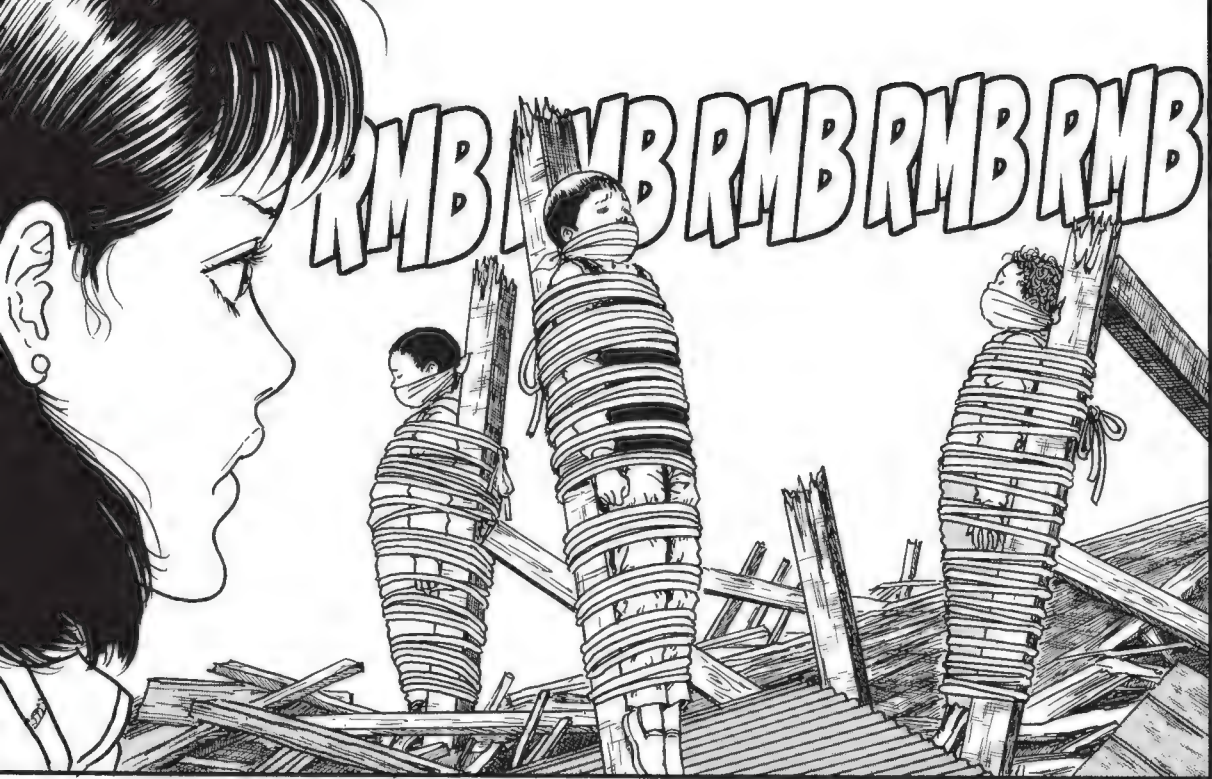


A black and white illustration of a large, swirling, concentric pattern resembling a spiral or a large eye, filling most of the frame. In the bottom right corner, a small figure of a person with long hair is seen from behind, looking up at the massive, swirling structure.



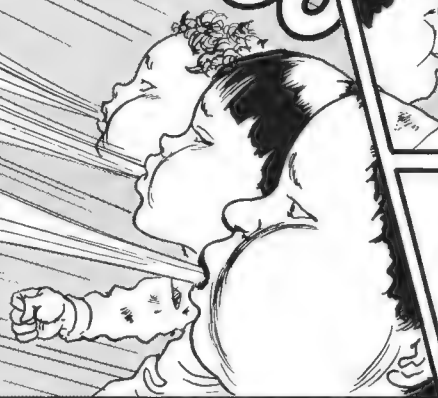
THE LAKE'S...
A WHIRL-POOL.

RMB-RMB-RMB

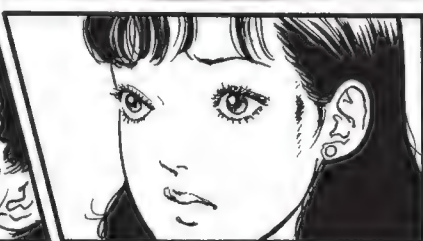




FWOOOOOOOO



Heh Heh Heh



WHRRRRRRRR

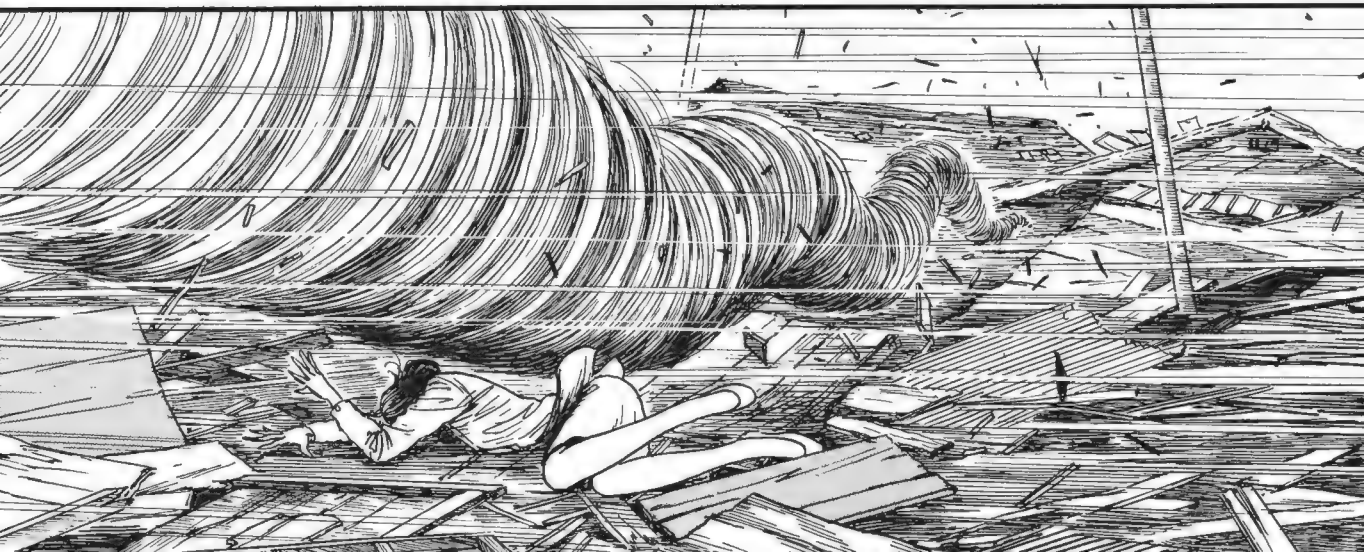
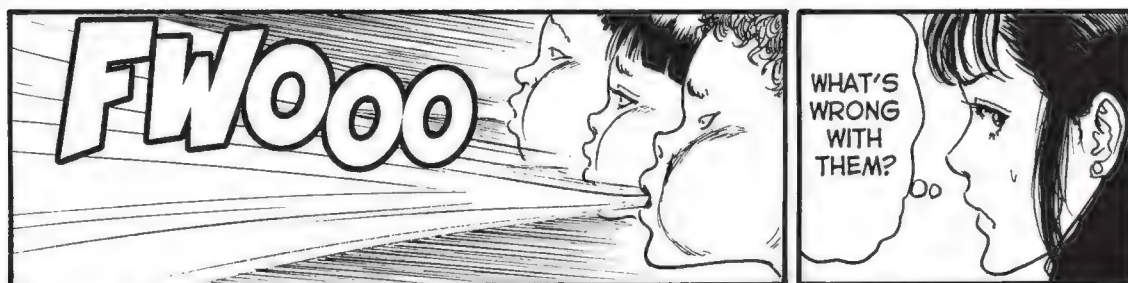
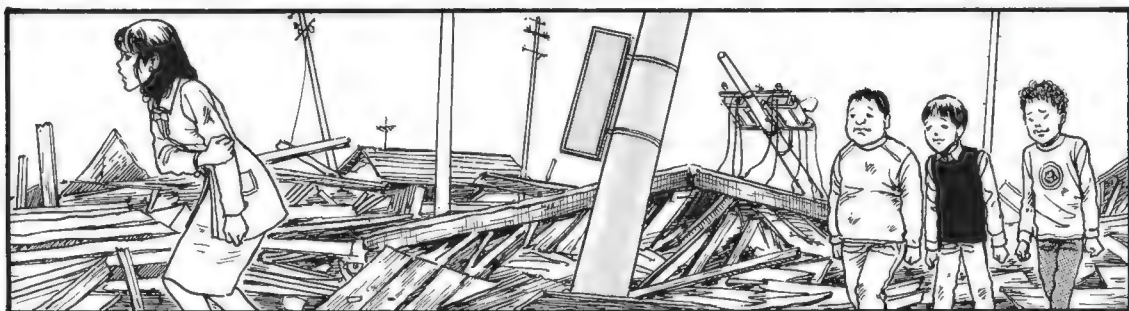
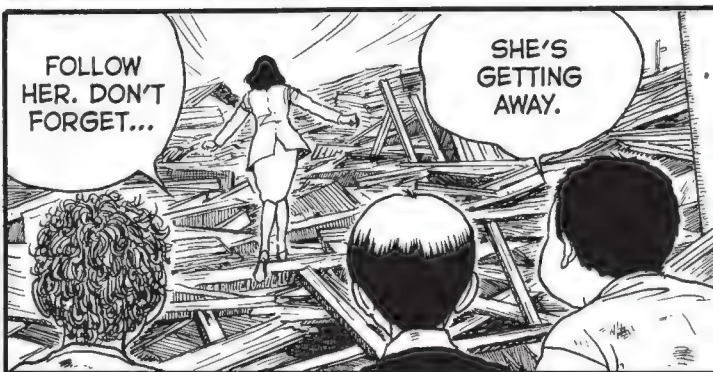


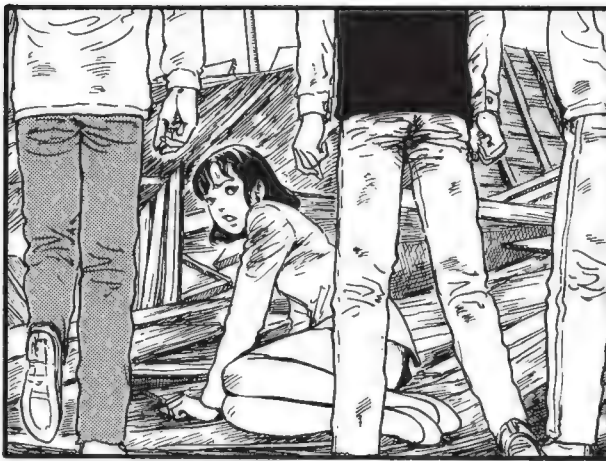
WHO OOO









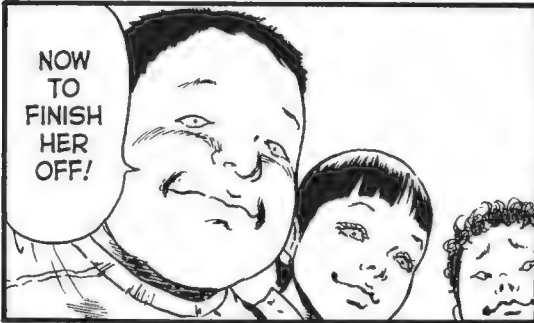


I THOUGHT
SHE'D BE
TOO HURT
FROM THE
LAST ONE.

SHE DUCKED
IT AGAIN.



NOW
TO
FINISH
HER
OFF!



GET
AWAY
FROM
ME!



WH-WHAT
ARE YOU
TRYING TO
DO?!



NO!!



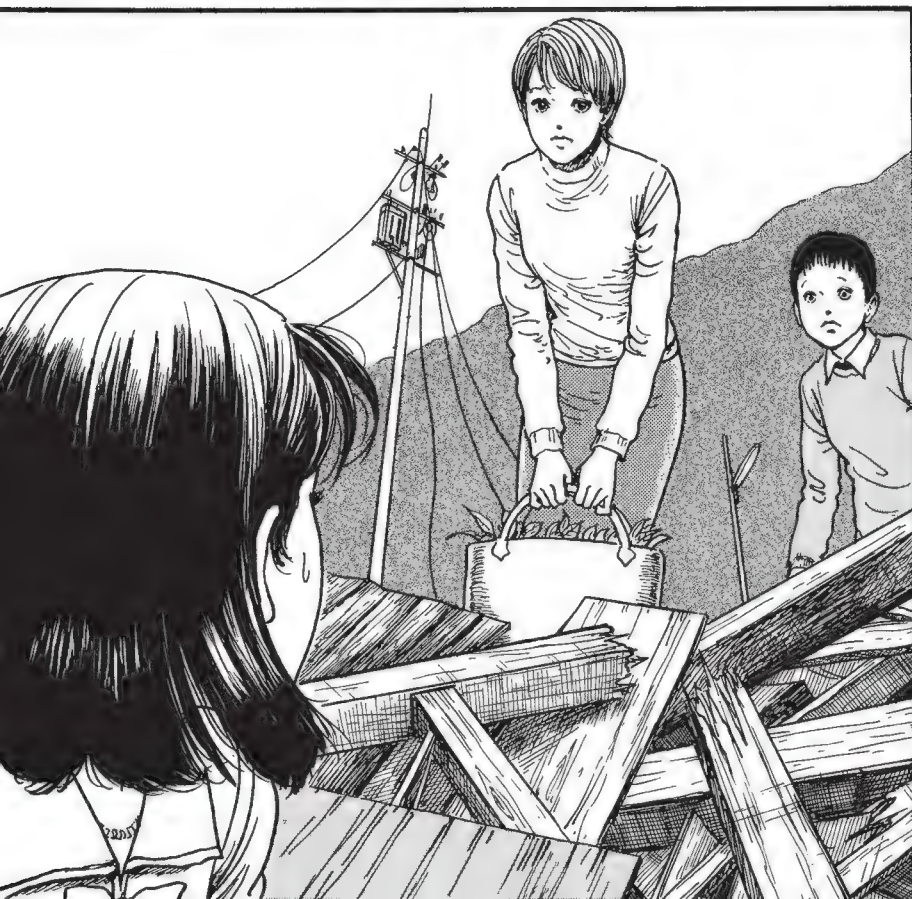


EYAA
!

...

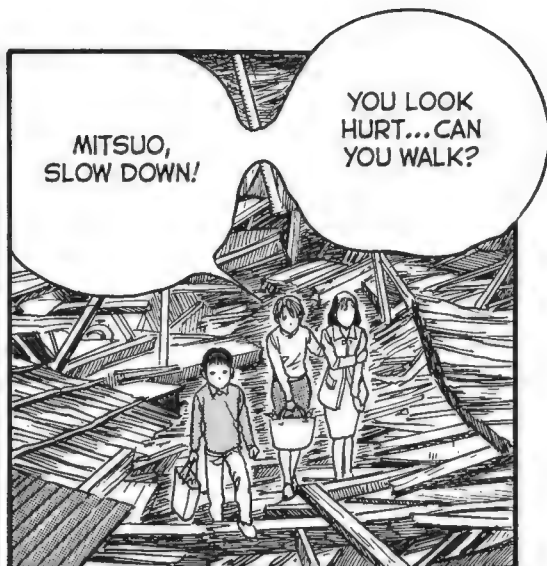
WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE?

HOW DID
THAT
HAPPEN?



ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?







YES...
ANY-
ONE
CAN.

WAIT...
YOU MEAN
I CAN
MAKE A
WHIRLWIND,
TOO?!



I HAVE
NO IDEA
HOW
LONG
THIS
WILL GO
ON.

WE HAVE TO
MOVE SLOWLY
SO WE DON'T
CREATE ANY
MORE
TWISTERS.



...FOR
BLOW-
ING
THOSE
KIDS
AWAY?

THEN...
THEN I
WAS RE-
SPONSI-
BLE...



EVEN
YOUR
BREATH
CAN
CREATE
ONE.

SO
PLEASE
KEEP
YOUR
VOICE
DOWN.



THOSE KIDS...
AND MY CREW...
AND THAT
HELICOPTER...

WHAT'S
WRONG
?



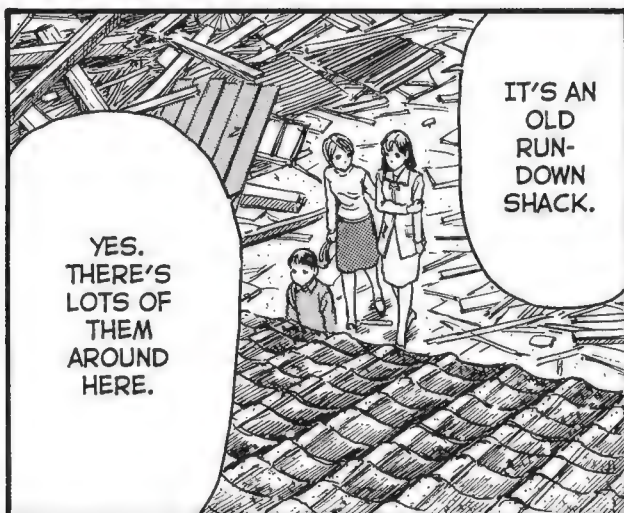
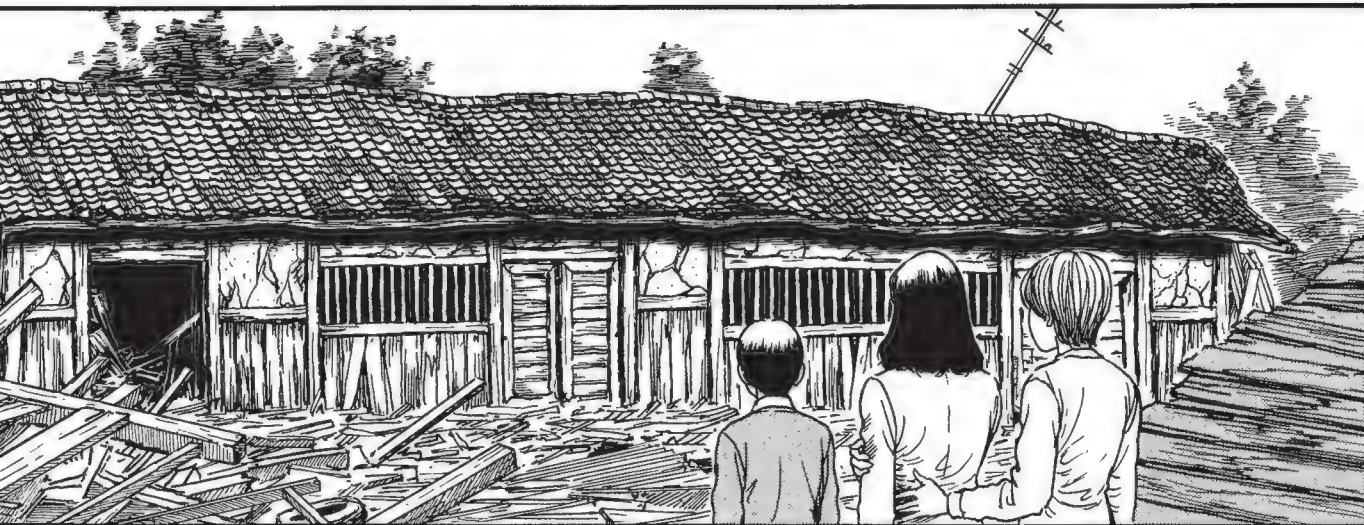
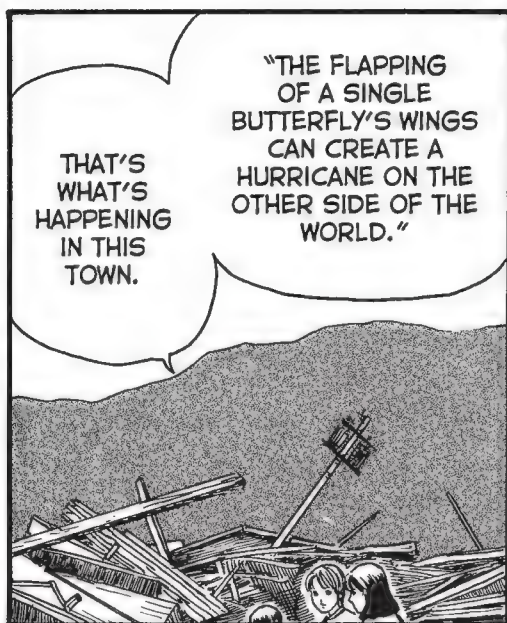
IT'S
TOO
DANGER-
OUS
TO BE
OUT-
SIDE.

PLEASE
DON'T
CRY.
WE'LL
TAKE YOU
TO OUR
PLACE.



WHAT
SHOULD I
DO?

HOW COULD I
HAVE DONE SUCH
AN AWFUL THING?
THOSE KIDS ARE
PROBABLY...





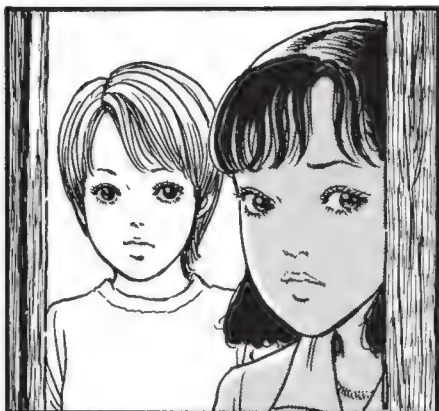
WE'RE HOME.



THE OTHER ROW HOUSES ARE FINE, TOO. IT'S STRANGE, BECAUSE THEY WERE IN LOUSY SHAPE TO BEGIN WITH.



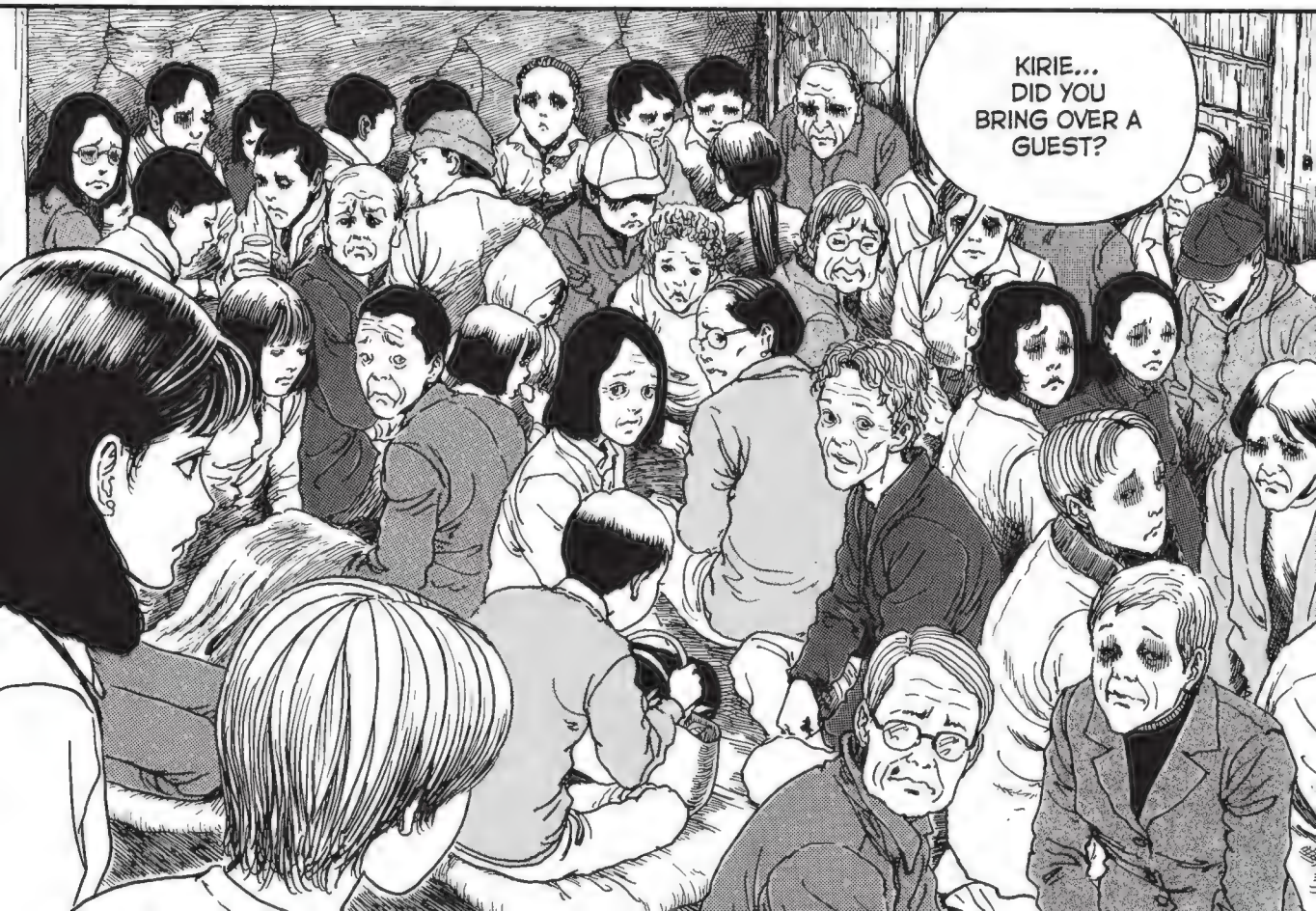
FOR WHAT-
EVER
REASON,
THIS BUILD-
ING HASN'T
SUFFERED
ANY
DAMAGE.



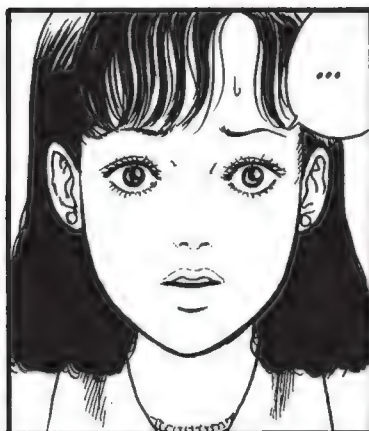
YOU'LL BE
SAFE HERE.
UNLIKE OUR
OLD PLACE,
IT'S NOT
INFECTED.

GO ON.

INFE-
CTED...?



KIRIE...
DID YOU
BRING OVER A
GUEST?





NO ONE
CAN
GET
OUT
...?



...ARE
STUCK HERE,
LIKE US.
LIKE YOU.

ALL THE
REPORTERS,
RESCUE TEAMS,
AND VOLUNTEERS
WHO'VE COME
HERE AFTER THE
LAST
HURRICANE...



EVEN THE
SIGNAL FROM
A CELL PHONE
CAN'T GET
OUT OF
KUROUZU-CHO
ANYMORE.

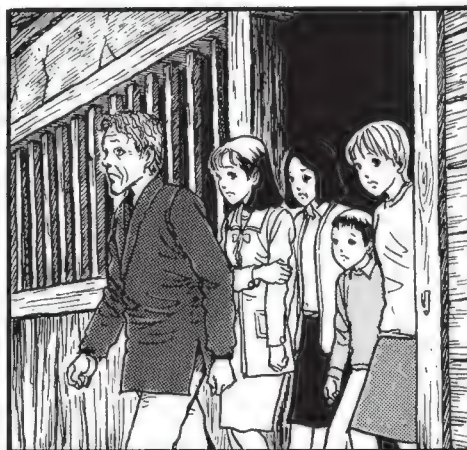
THERE'S A
TERRIFYING
POWER IN THIS
TOWN.
IT'S SUCKING
US INTO ITS
SPIRAL.

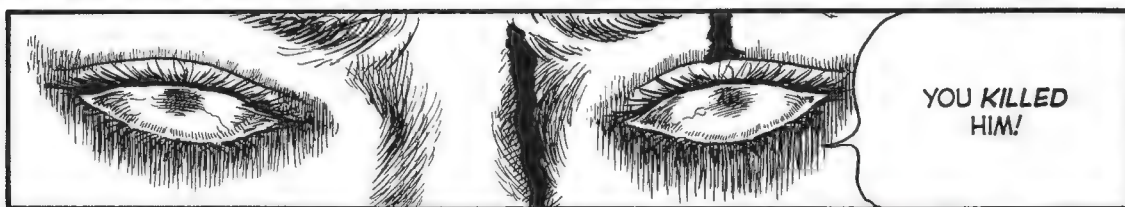
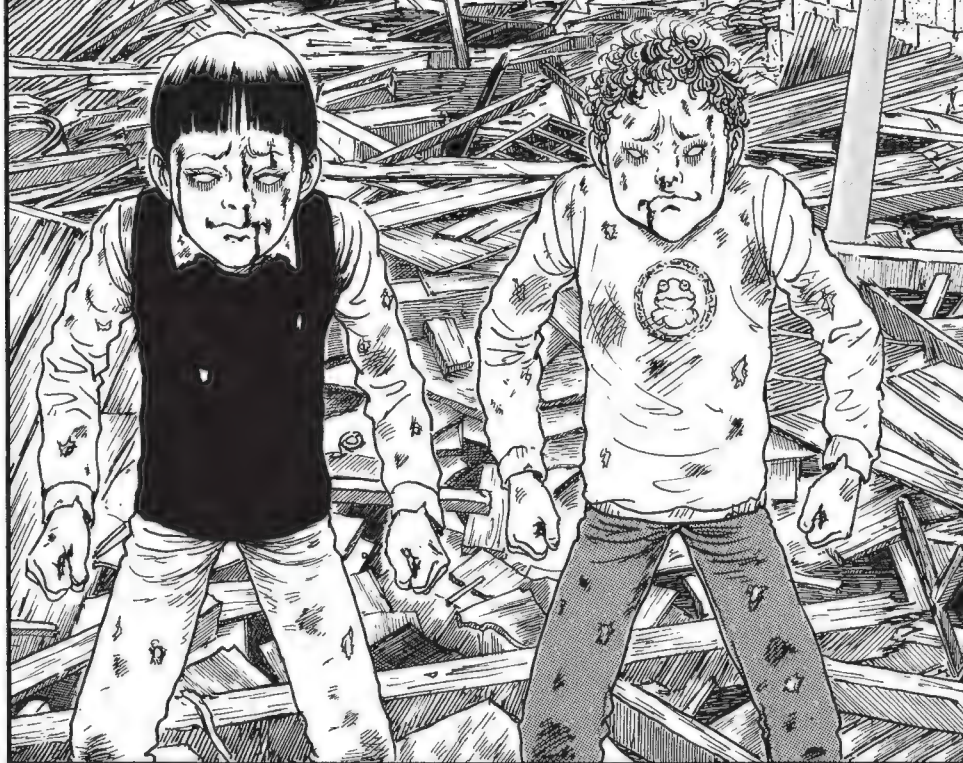


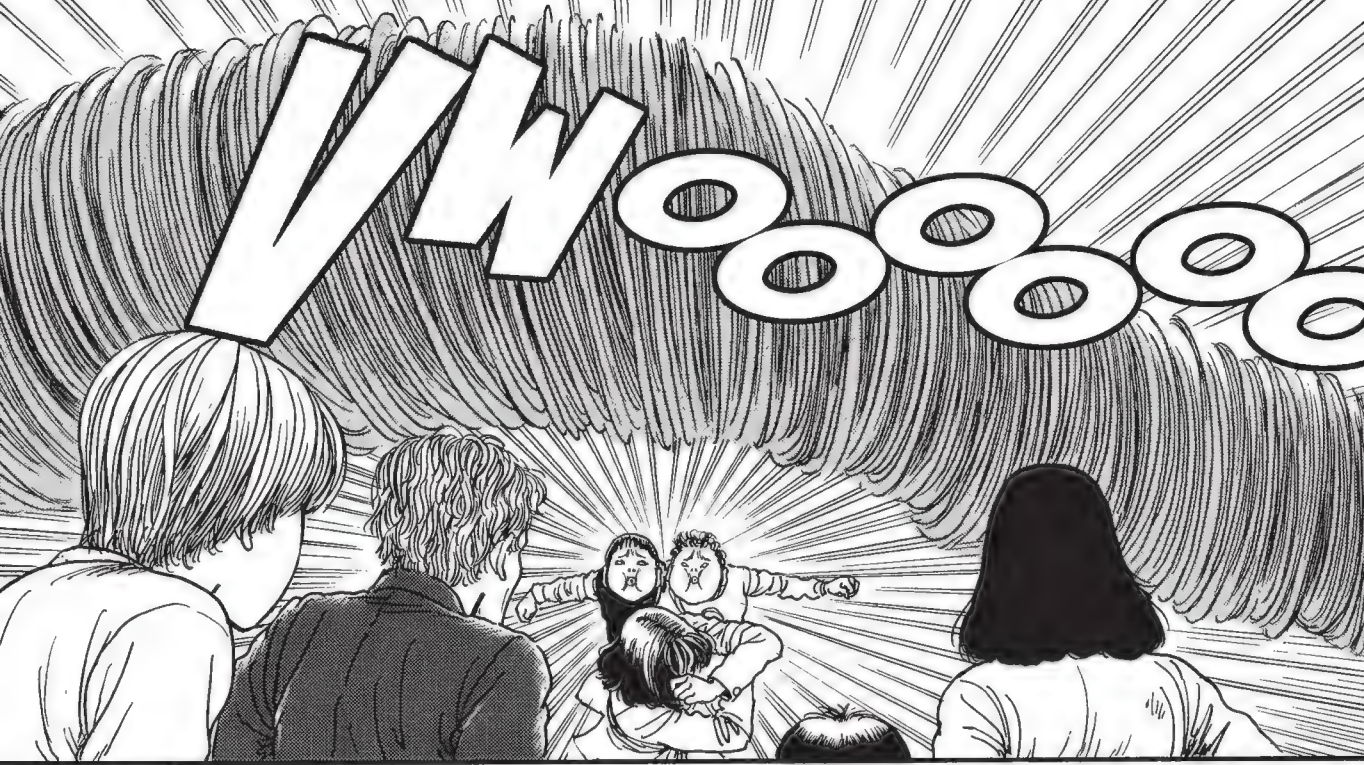
OH!

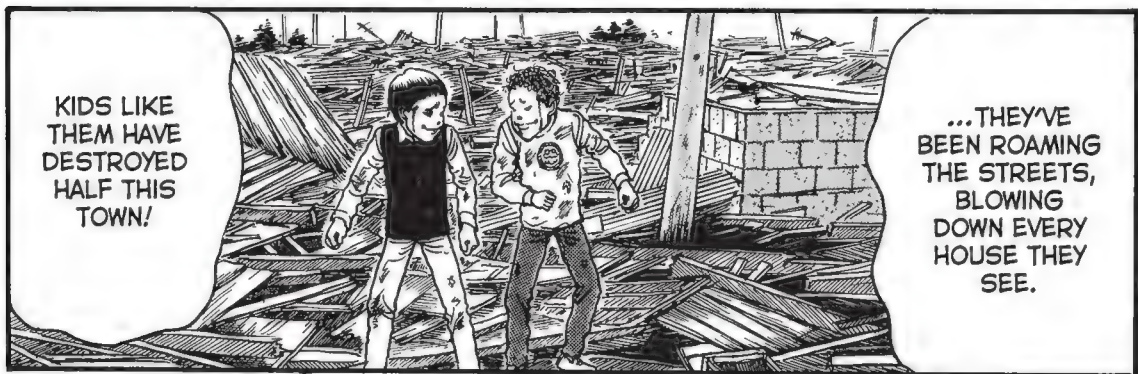


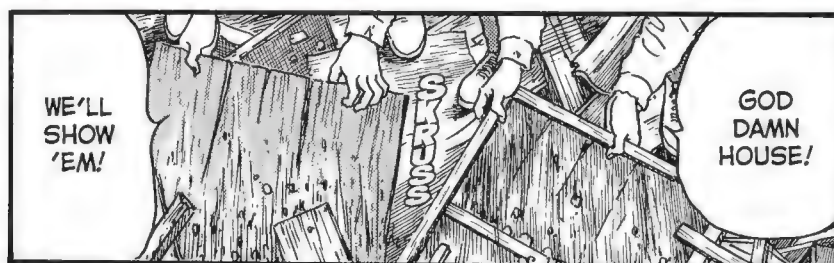
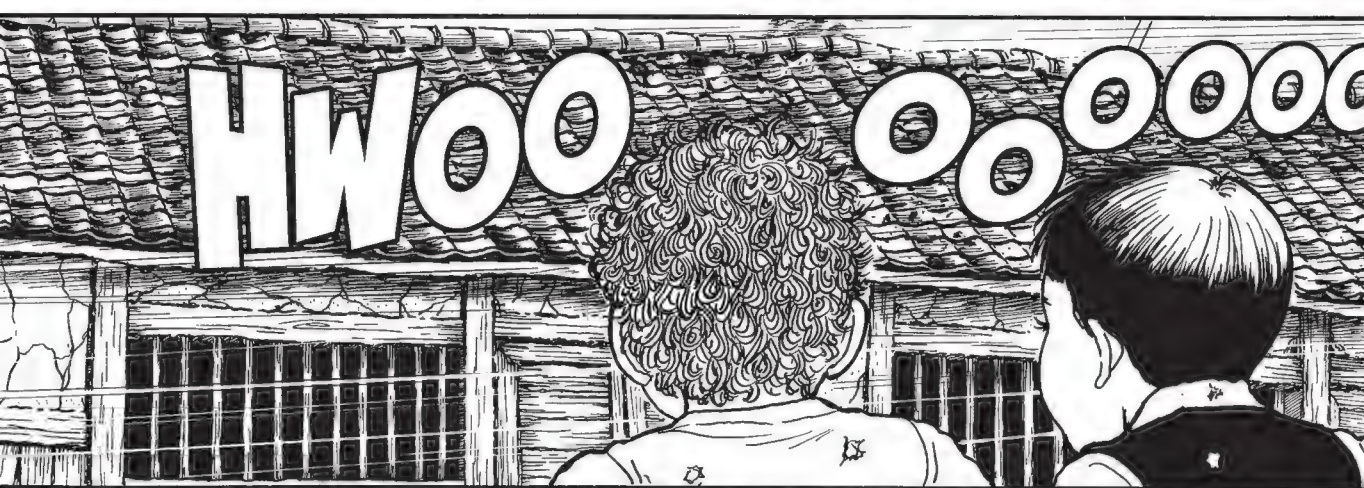
DON'T
LISTEN TO
THEM...
LET'S GO.





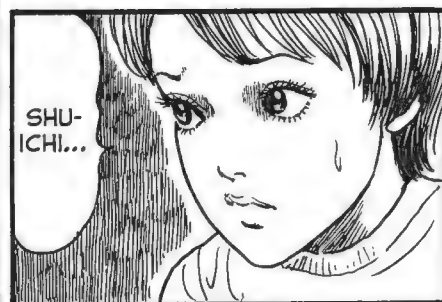
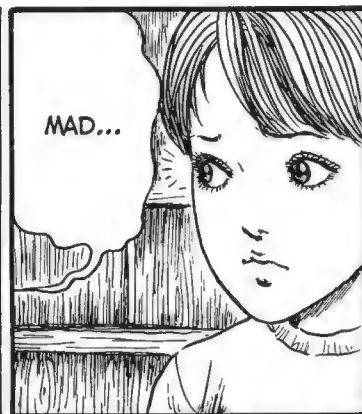














**HYA HA
HA HA!**

KUROUZU-CHO...
WAS GOING
MAD.

THEY'RE
WHEELING
AROUND
LIKE
BUTTER-
FLIES!

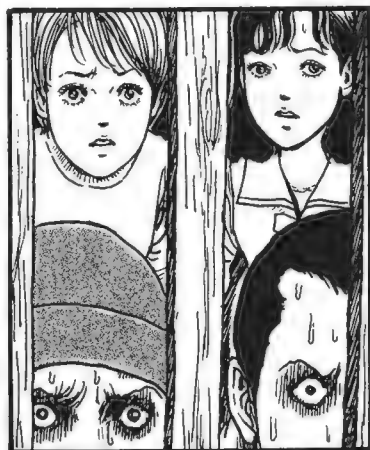


**AARRGH!
NO WAY!**



LOOK
AT
THEM!

HOW DID THEY
LEARN TO DO
THAT?!



CHAPTER

15

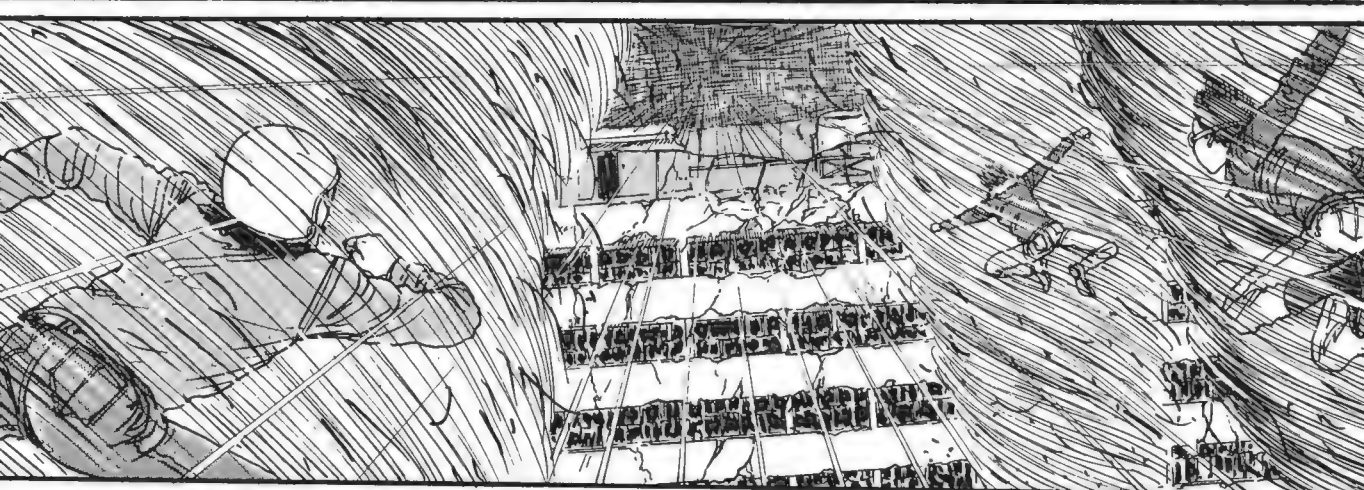
CHAOS







YEAHHH!

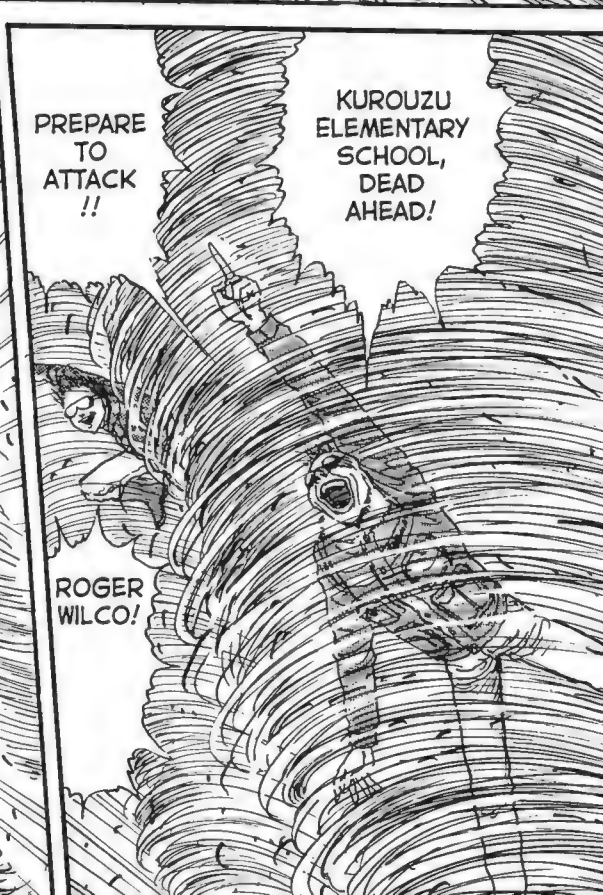


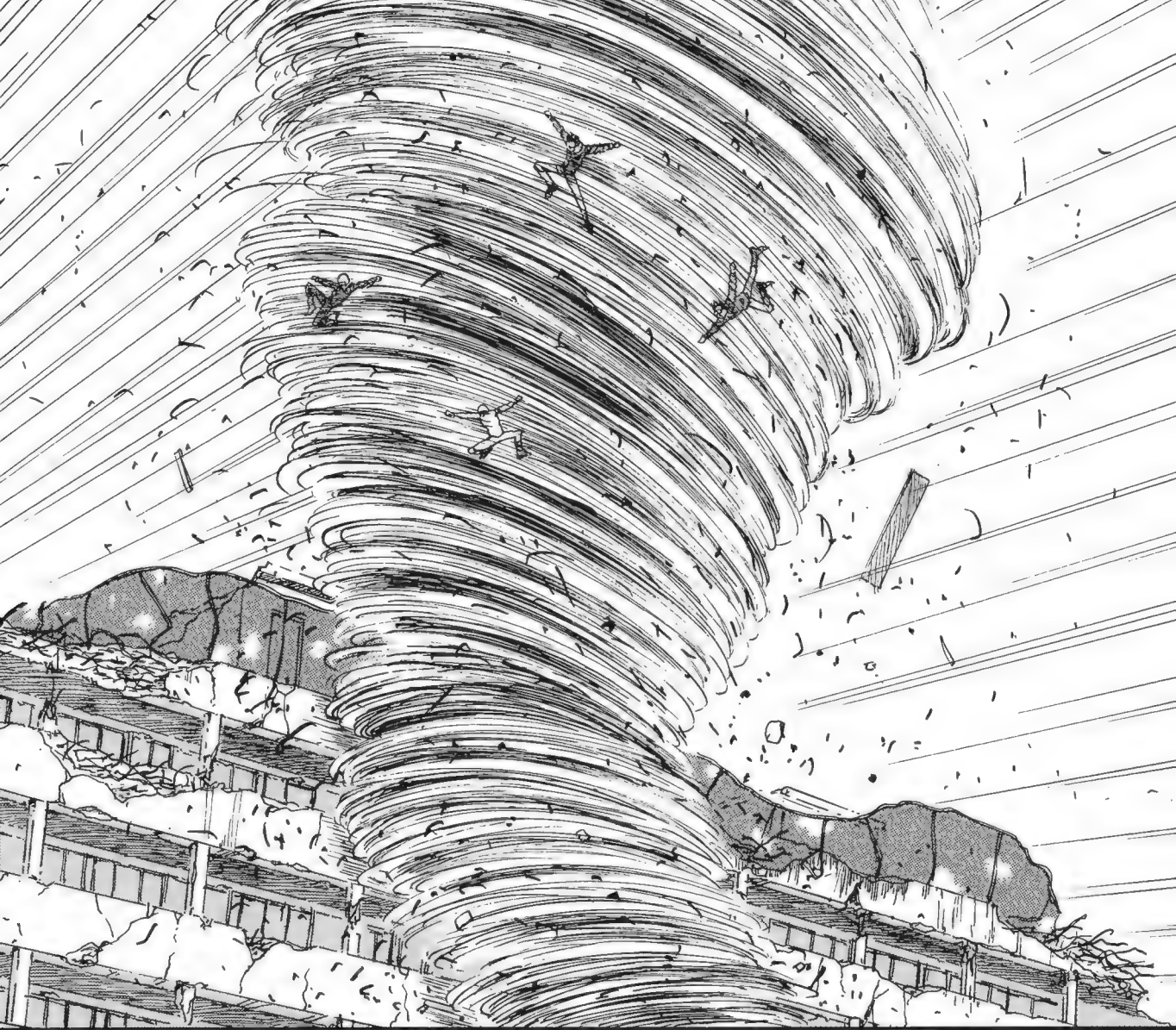
CHARGE!

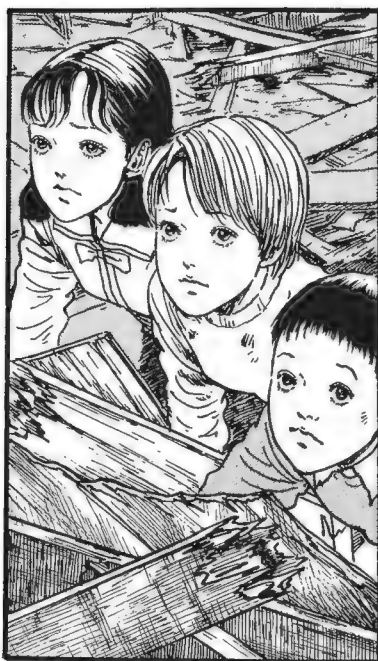
PREPARE
TO
ATTACK
!!

KUROUZU
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL,
DEAD
AHEAD!

ROGER
WILCO!







THEY'RE
WRECK-
ING ALL
THE CON-
CRETE
BUILD-
INGS.

A LOT OF
PEOPLE
HAVE
JOINED
THEM.



THOSE
GANGS ARE
OUT OF
CONTROL.



YOU HAVE TO
BE REALLY
RECKLESS
TO RIDE A
TWISTER.

LOTS OF
PEOPLE
HAVE DIED
TRYING IT.



IT'S DAN-
GEROUS!

DON'T
YOU
DARE,
MITSUO!



MAYBE
I'LL
JOIN
TOO...

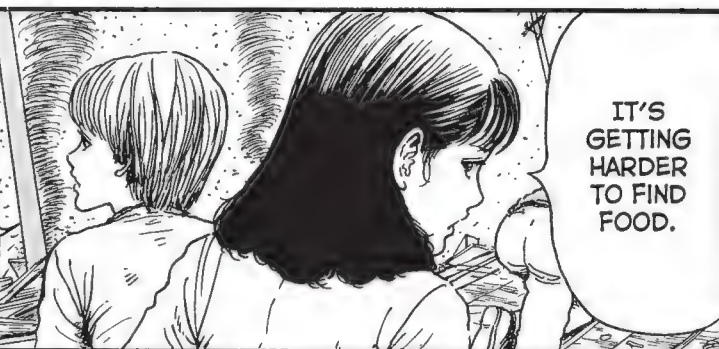
IT
LOOKS
FUN.



AW
MAN...I'M
HUNGRY!



HOW DO THEY
GET THE
ENERGY TO
DO THAT?



IT'S
GETTING
HARDER
TO FIND
FOOD.



AT LEAST
WE'D
HAVE
SOME-
THING TO
EAT!

I WISH
I WAS IN
THEIR
GANG!



FORGET
IT,
MITSUO.



APPARENTLY THEY
STEAL FOOD
SHIPMENTS FROM
RELIEF AGENCIES AND
RESCUE TEAMS.

THEY'RE
STILL COMING,
YOU KNOW.
NO ONE
OUTSIDE
REALIZES YOU
CAN'T GET
OUT...



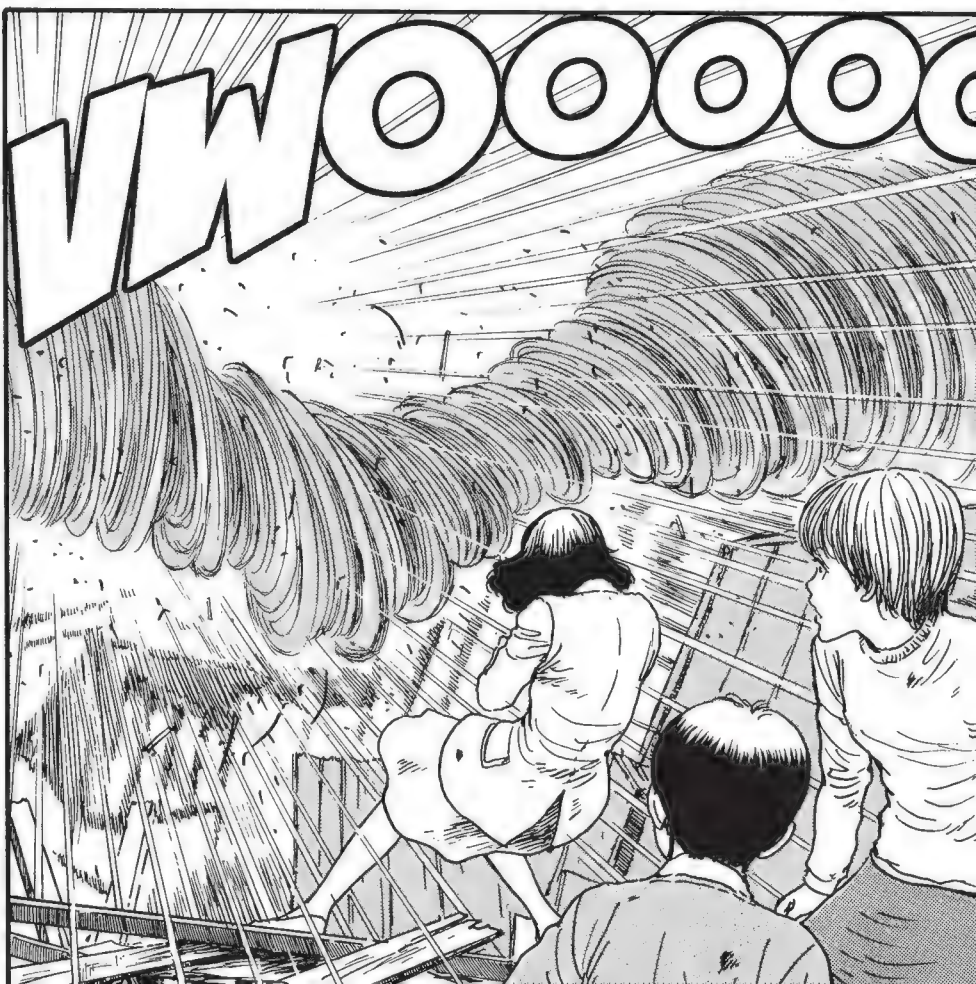
SHUT UP, MITSUO!

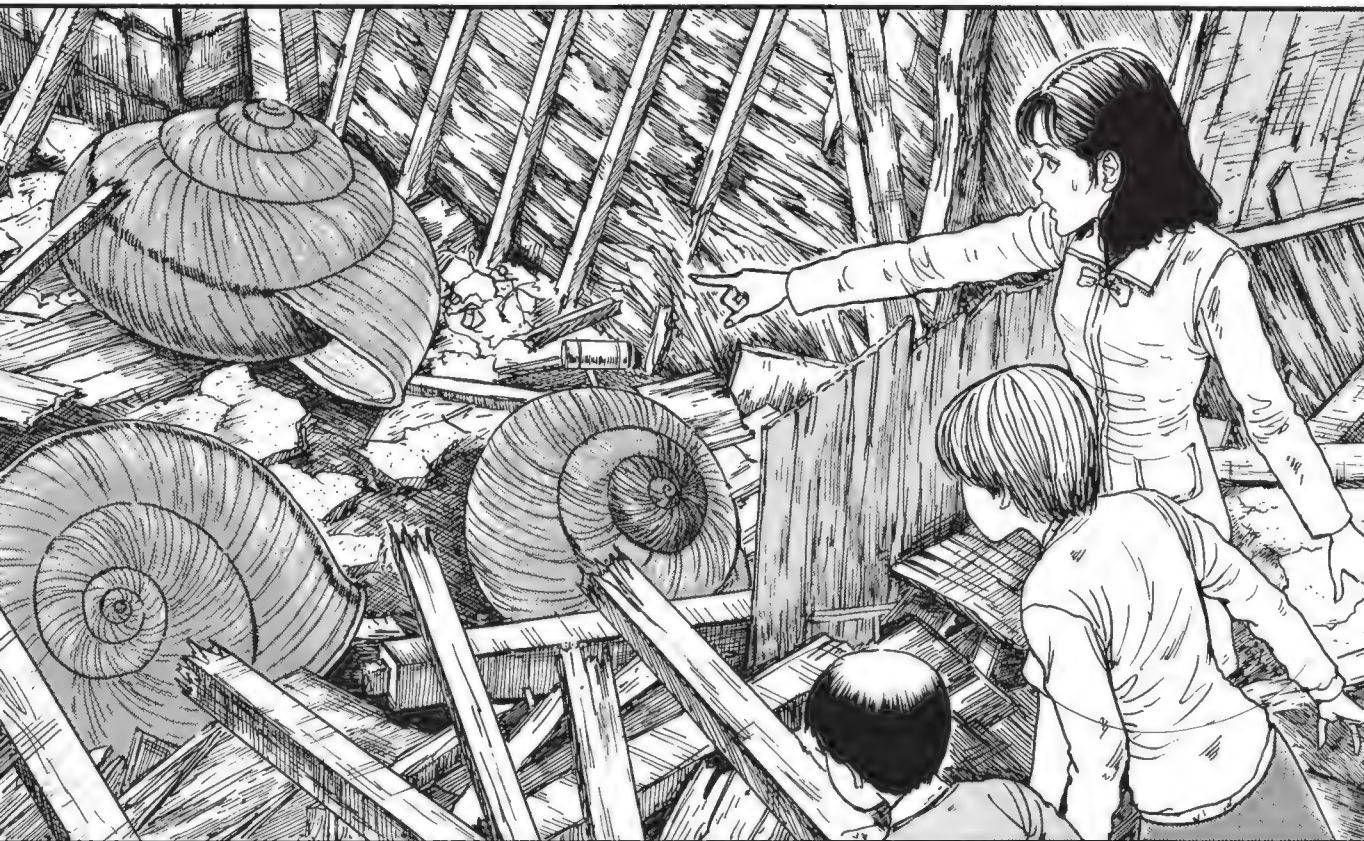


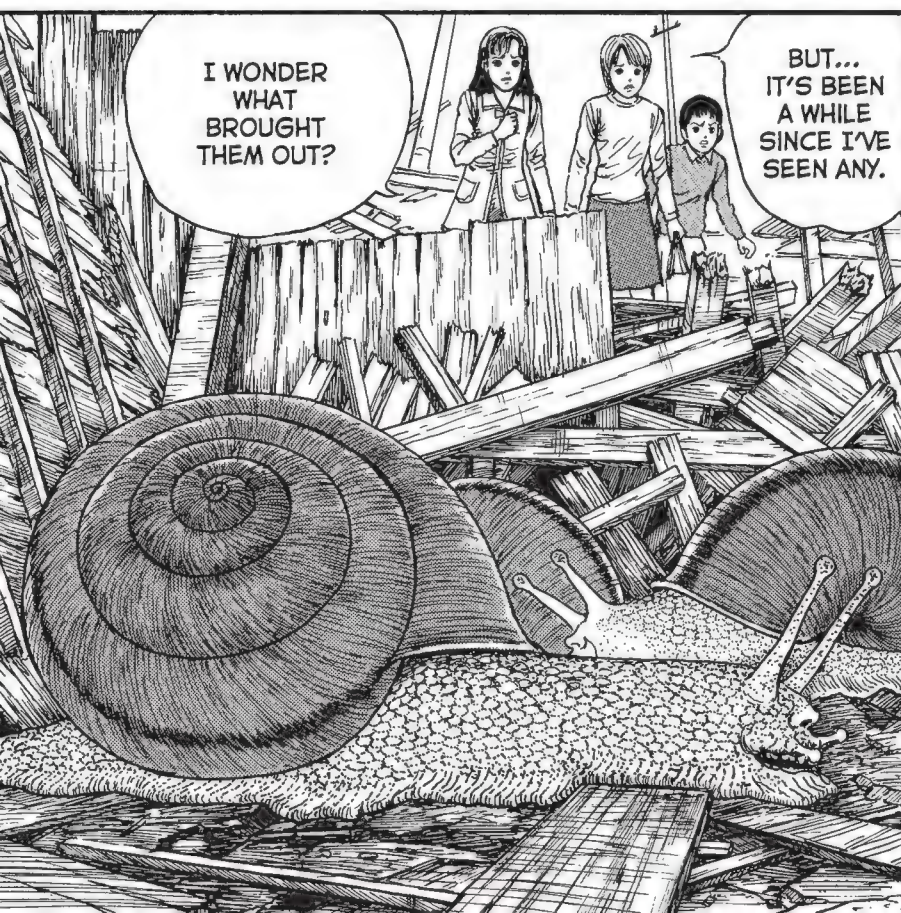
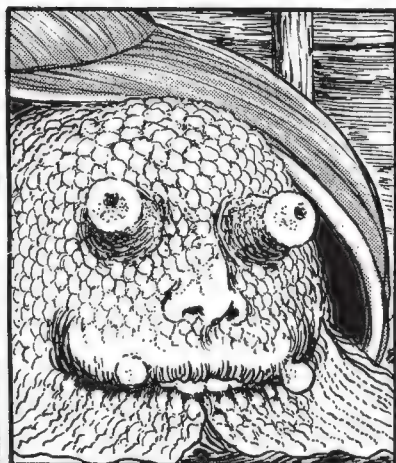
BUT WE'RE STARVING! WHILE WE SNEAK AROUND LIKE SNAILS, TRYING NOT TO MAKE WHIRLWINDS...



CHIE...?!



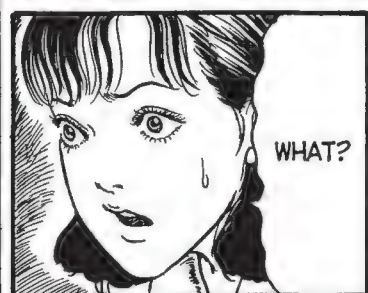


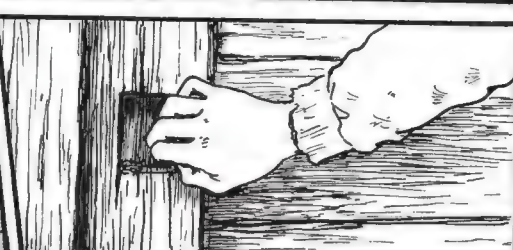
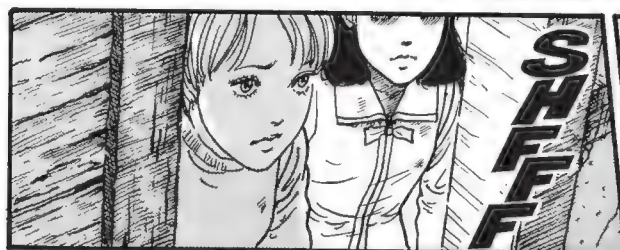


BUT...
IT'S BEEN
A WHILE
SINCE I'VE
SEEN ANY.



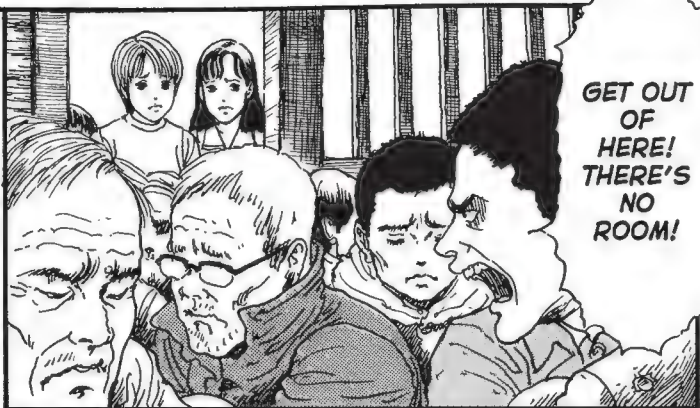
THE
THINGS
GOING ON
IN THIS
TOWN
TURN
SOME
PEOPLE
INTO
SNAILS.







BUT WE
WERE
LIVING
HERE
BEFORE
YOU
PEOPLE
CAME!



GET OUT
OF
HERE!
THERE'S
NO
ROOM!



GOD, IT'S
GETTING
CROWDED...



MOM!

KIRIE...
KIRIE!
COME OVER
HERE!



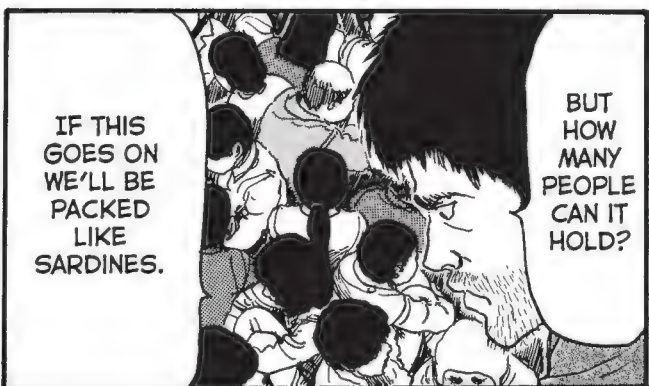
WHAT'S
THIS...?

IT MUST BE
THE SAME IN
THE OTHER
ROW
HOUSES.



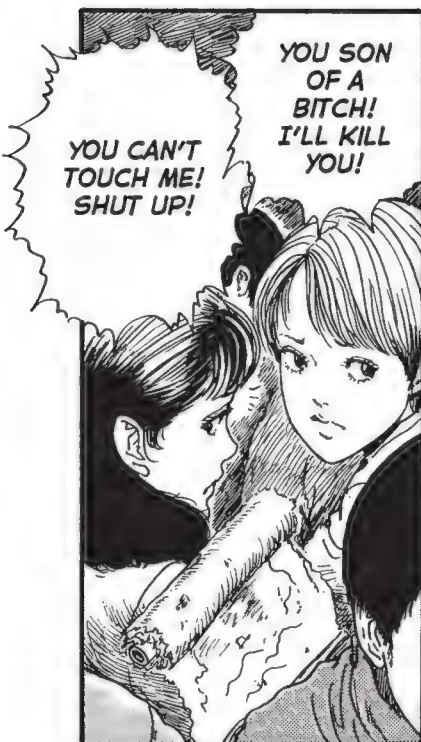
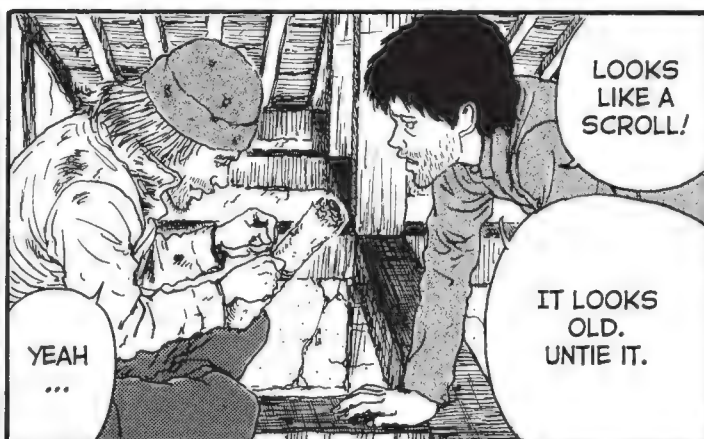
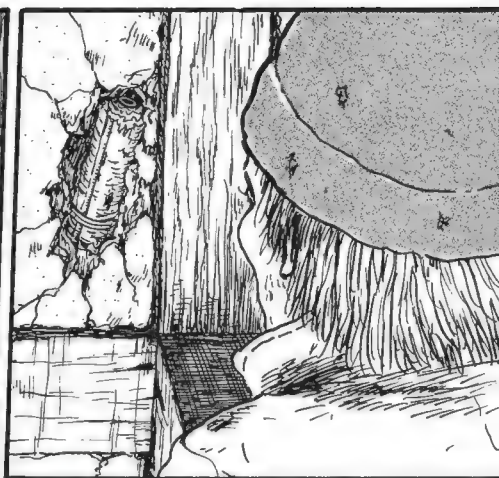
AND WE
CAN MOVE
AND TALK
NORMALLY
WITHOUT
BRINGING
THE PLACE
DOWN ON
OUR
HEADS.

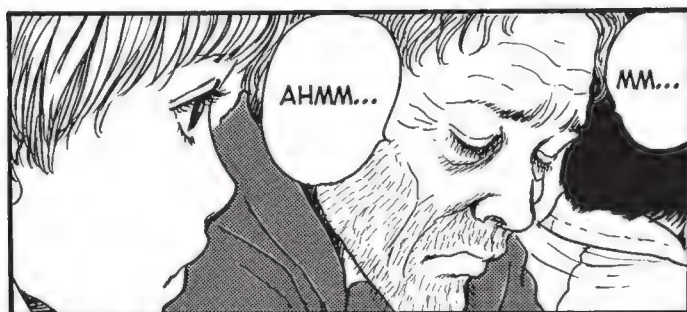
THESE
SHACKS
ARE THE
ONLY
THINGS
THE WHIRL-
WINDS
CAN'T
DESTROY.

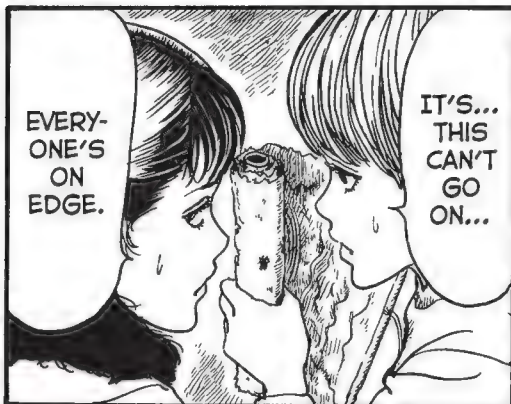


IF THIS
GOES ON
WE'LL BE
PACKED
LIKE
SARDINES.

BUT
HOW
MANY
PEOPLE
CAN IT
HOLD?

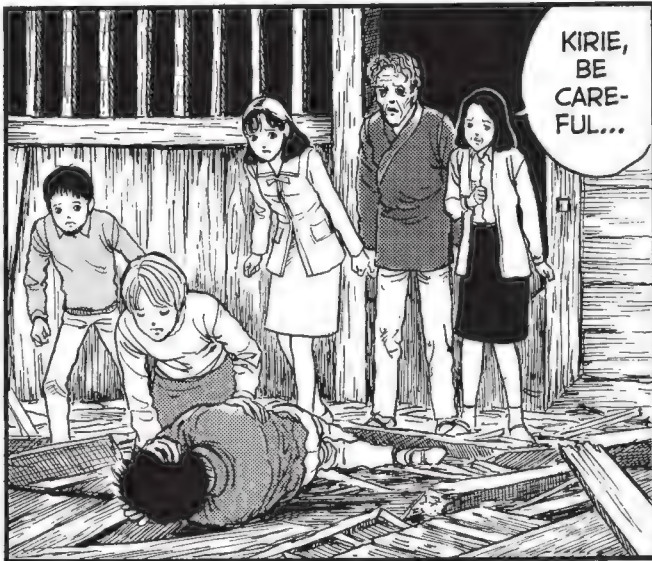
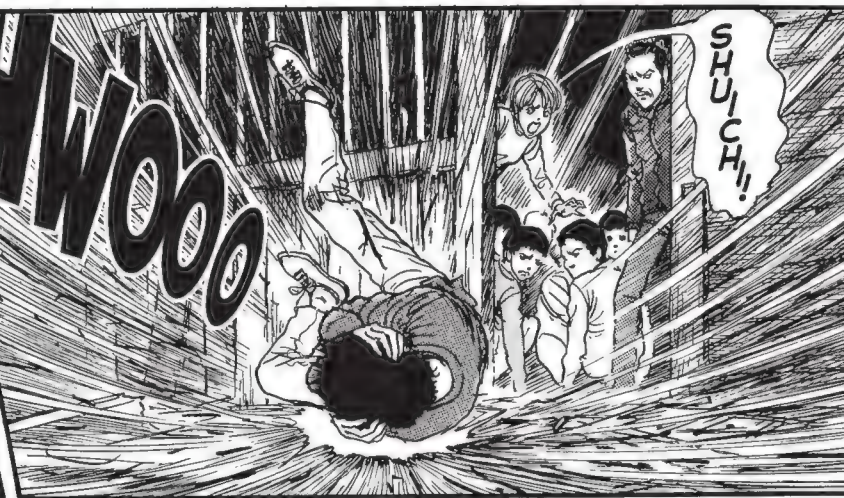
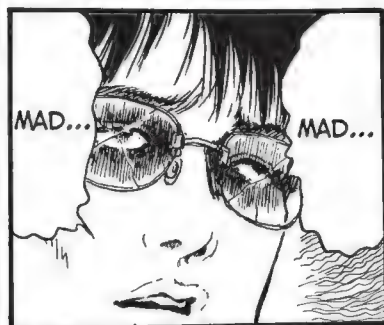








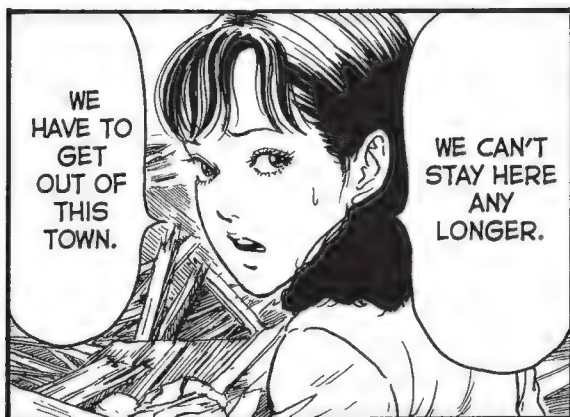
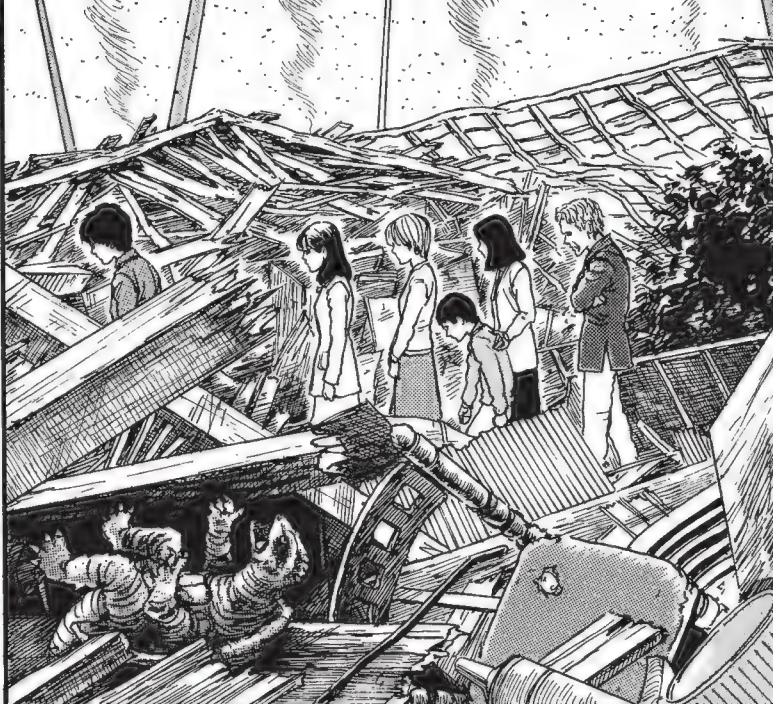
GET
OUT!





ARRGH!

WHAT ARE
WE GONNA
DO NOW?



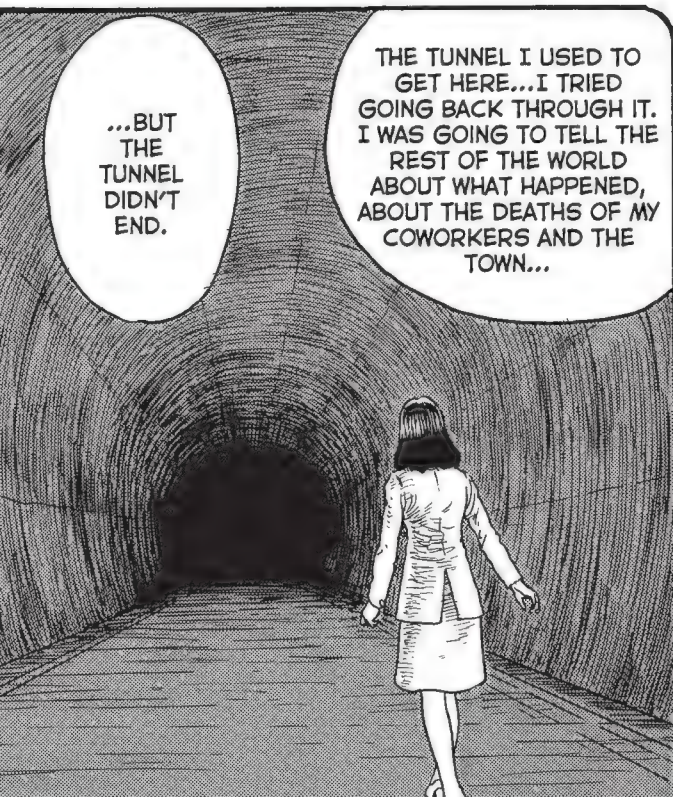
WE
HAVE TO
GET
OUT OF
THIS
TOWN.

WE CAN'T
STAY HERE
ANY
LONGER.



BUT IT'S
SUPPOSED
TO BE
CROWDED
EVERY-
WHERE!

WE'LL
FIND
ANOTHER
ROW
HOUSE...



...BUT
THE
TUNNEL
DIDN'T
END.

THE TUNNEL I USED TO
GET HERE...I TRIED
GOING BACK THROUGH IT.
I WAS GOING TO TELL THE
REST OF THE WORLD
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED,
ABOUT THE DEATHS OF MY
COWORKERS AND THE
TOWN...



YES...

JUST
ONCE
...



BUT
EVERYONE
SAYS IT'S
IMPOSSI-
BLE.

YOU
ALREADY
TRIED IT
YOUR-
SELF,
DIDN'T
YOU?



I'M
NOT
LEAV-
ING.

IT'S
OKAY.



BUT THERE
MUST BE SOME
WAY TO
ESCAPE!

IT'S
JUST LIKE
SHUICHI
SAID...
THE SPIRAL
WON'T LET
US GO.



...TO RE-
BUILD MY
FURNACE
AND WORK
ON MY
ART...MY
ART OF THE
SPIRAL.

I WANT
TO
MAKE
CERAM-
ICS
HERE...



THE MUD FROM
DRAGONFLY
POND?
BUT DEAR...
DRAGONFLY
POND'S A
WHIRLPOOL.
YOU CAN'T DIG
MUD THERE
ANYMORE.

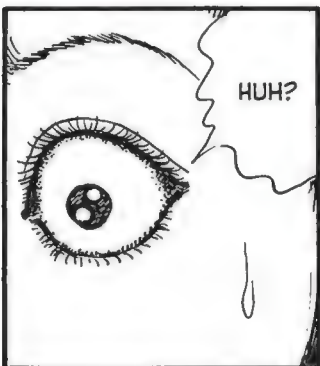
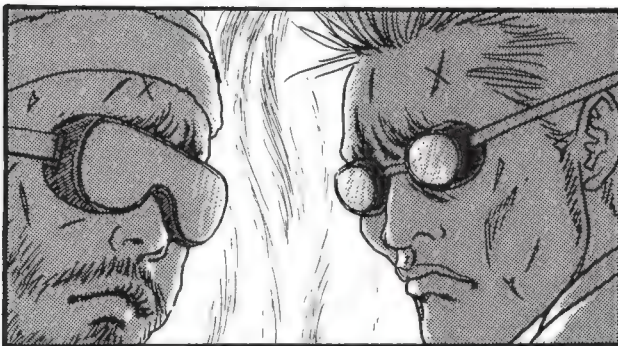
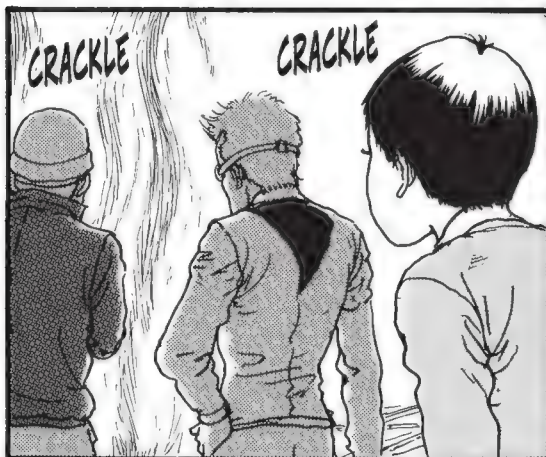
FOR THAT, I
NEED THE
MUD FROM
DRAGONFLY
POND.

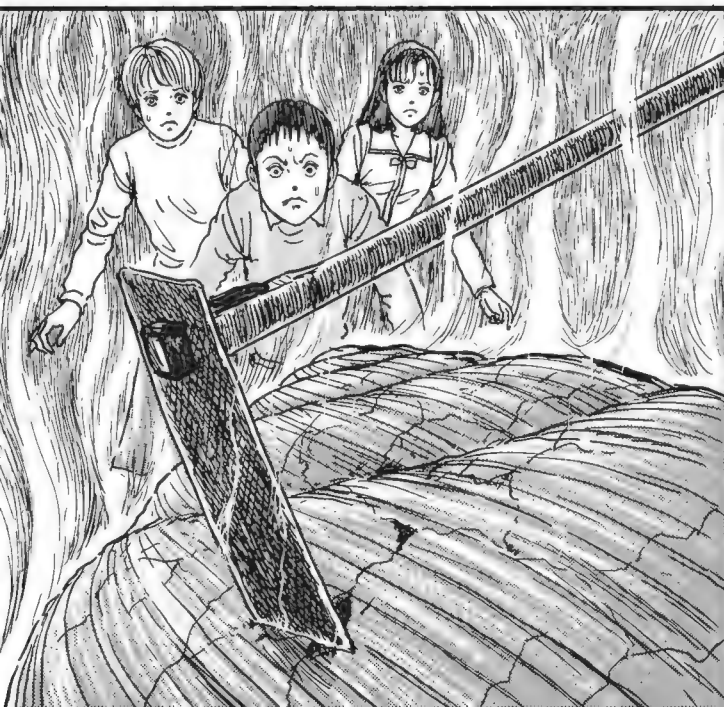
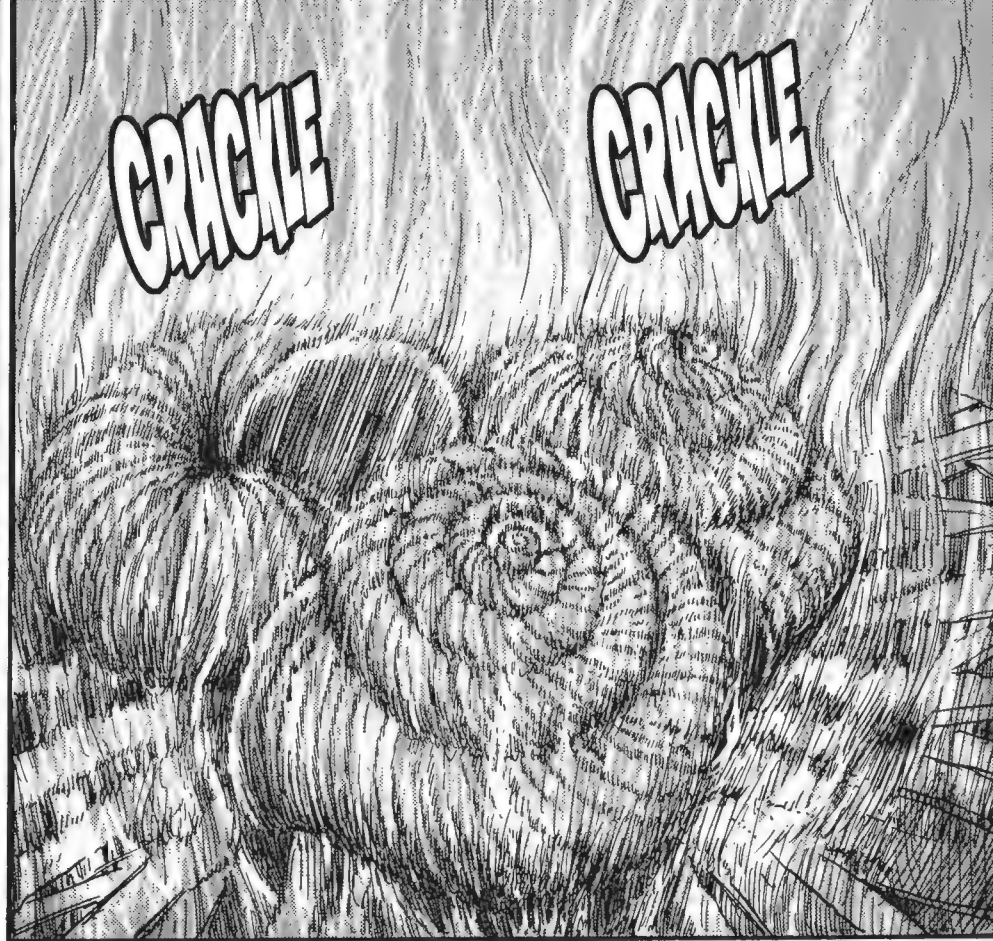
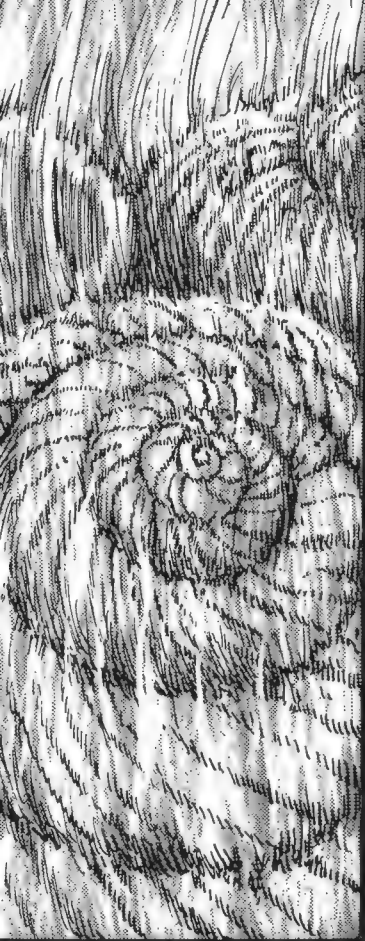


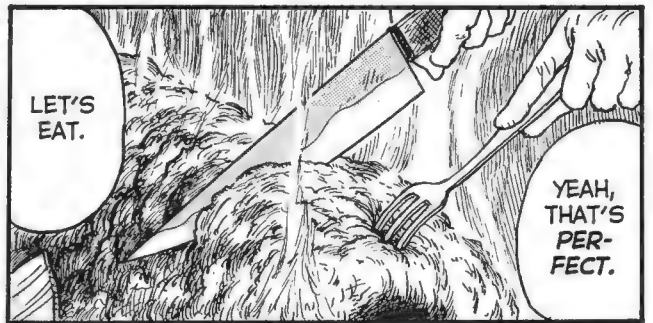
IT'S THOSE CREEPY WHIRL-WIND RIDERS!

DON'T GO NEAR THEM!

STOP!









BUT
THAT'S
NOT ES-
CARGOT...
THEY'RE
HUMAN...



THIS STUFF'S
VERY TASTY.
KEEPS YOU GOING.
JUST THINK OF IT AS
ESCARGOT.

HOW
ABOUT
YOU,
PRETTY
LADIES?



GANG?



WE'RE
NOT
JOINING
YOUR
GANG.



WHY DON'T
YOU GIRLS
STAY HERE,
AND YOU CAN
EAT LIKE THIS
EVERY NIGHT.

WERE
HUMAN
...
BUT
NOT
NOW.



DRAGON-
FLIES EAT
MEAT.

WE'RE
MORE
LIKE
DRAGON-
FLIES.

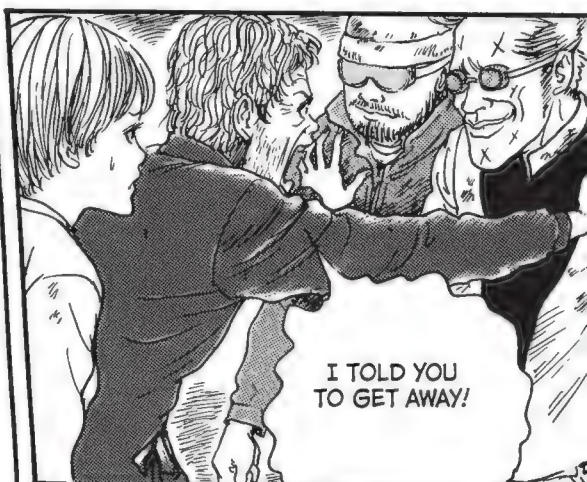
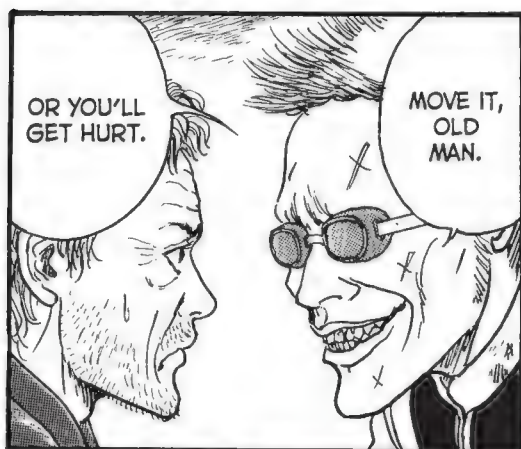


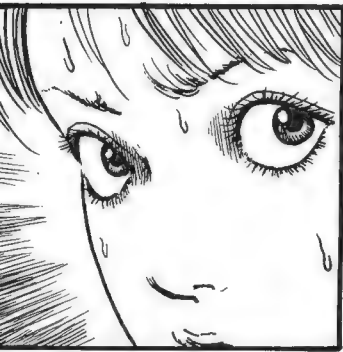
"THEY'RE
FLYING AROUND
LIKE
BUTTERFLIES!"
HA HA!
WONDER WHAT
HAPPENED TO
THEM?

COME ON. WE'LL
TEACH YOU TO FLY.
REMEMBER THOSE
LITTLE KIDS WHO
DID IT FIRST?



WE'LL
TEACH
YOU
THINGS...









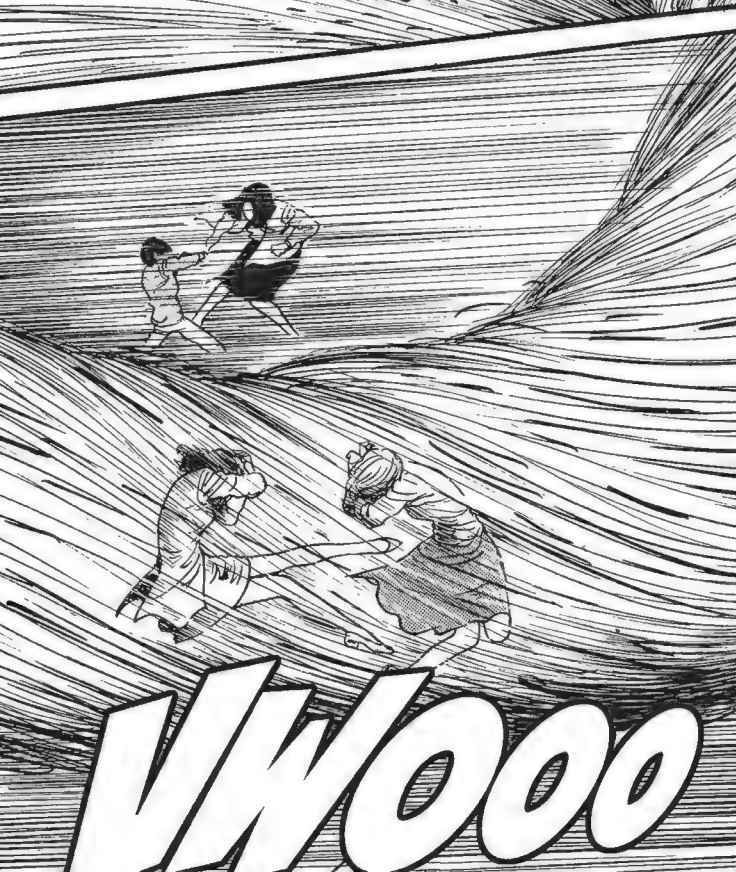
HO OOOON



VWOOO



LET'S GET
OUT OF HERE!



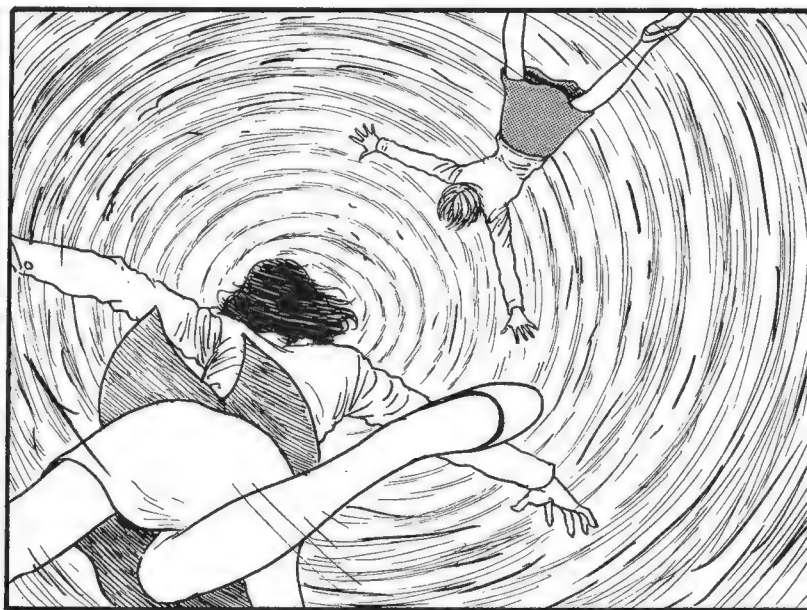
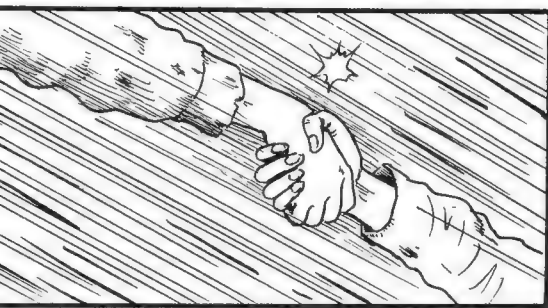
VWOOO





TAKE
MY
HAND!

CHIE!



FORM UP
AND
PURSUE!

OUR
PREY IS
ESCAPING
AT
TWELVE
O'CLOCK!

ROGER
WILCO!



YAH
HAH
HAH!



VWOOO



CHIE!

KIRIE!



WE'RE
BEING
BLOWN IN!



WE'RE
GETTING
CLOSER!

IT'S
DRAGON-
FLY
POND!



LOOK
OVER
THERE!

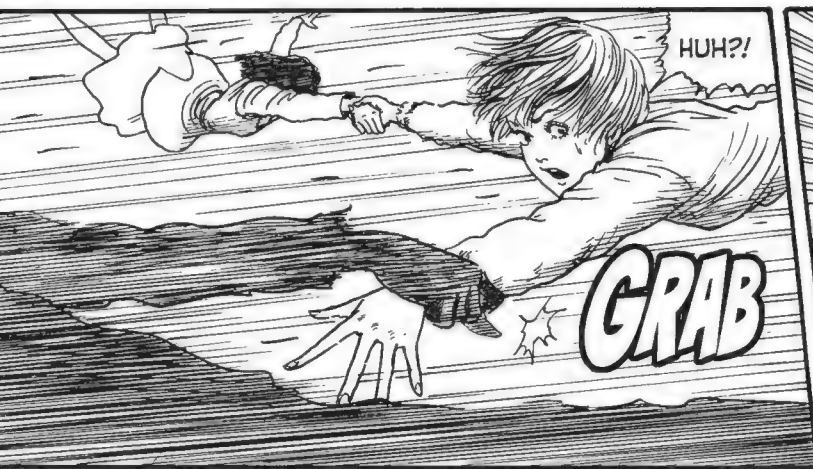
WH
O
O
O



WOOOOOO



WE'LL BE
SUCKED
INTO THE
WHIRL-
POOL!

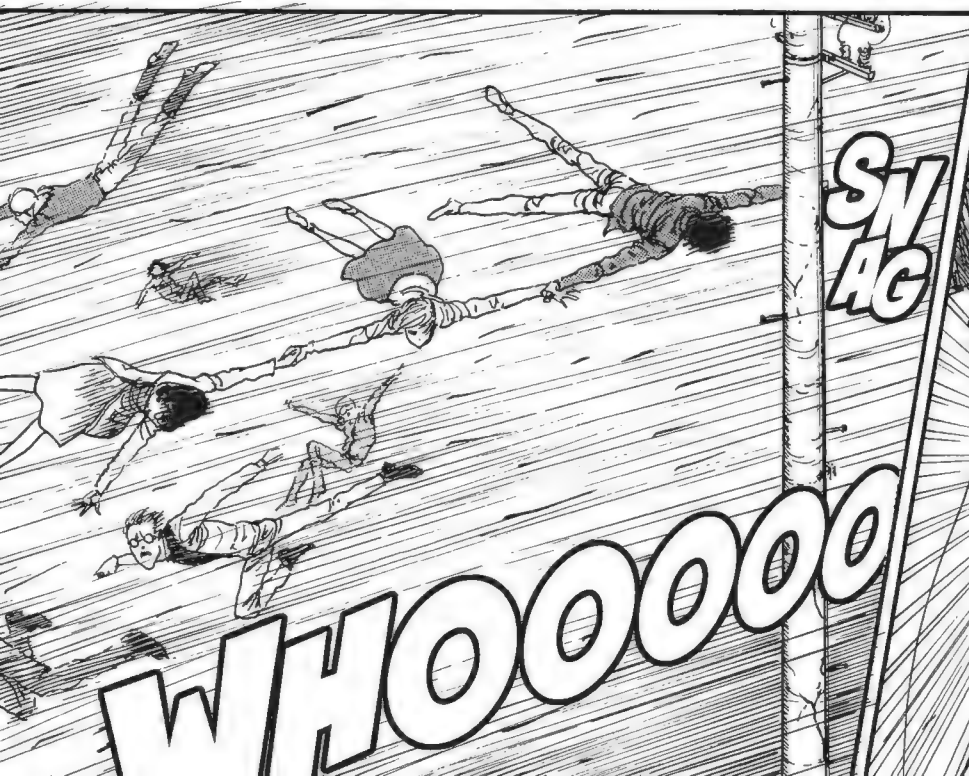


HUH?!

GRAB



WHOOSH

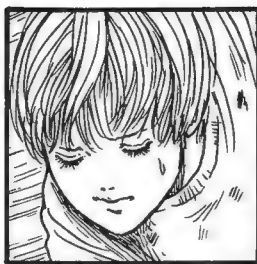
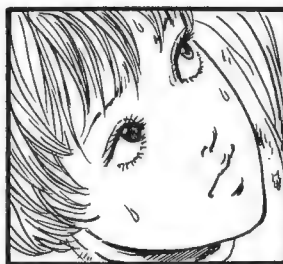


SNAG

WOOOOOO







CHAPTER

16

EROSION





...ONLY
TO FIND
THEMSELVES
TRAPPED IN
THE RUINS.

SLOWLY
...

PEOPLE
STILL
POURED INTO
KUROUZU-
CHO FROM
THE
OUTSIDE...

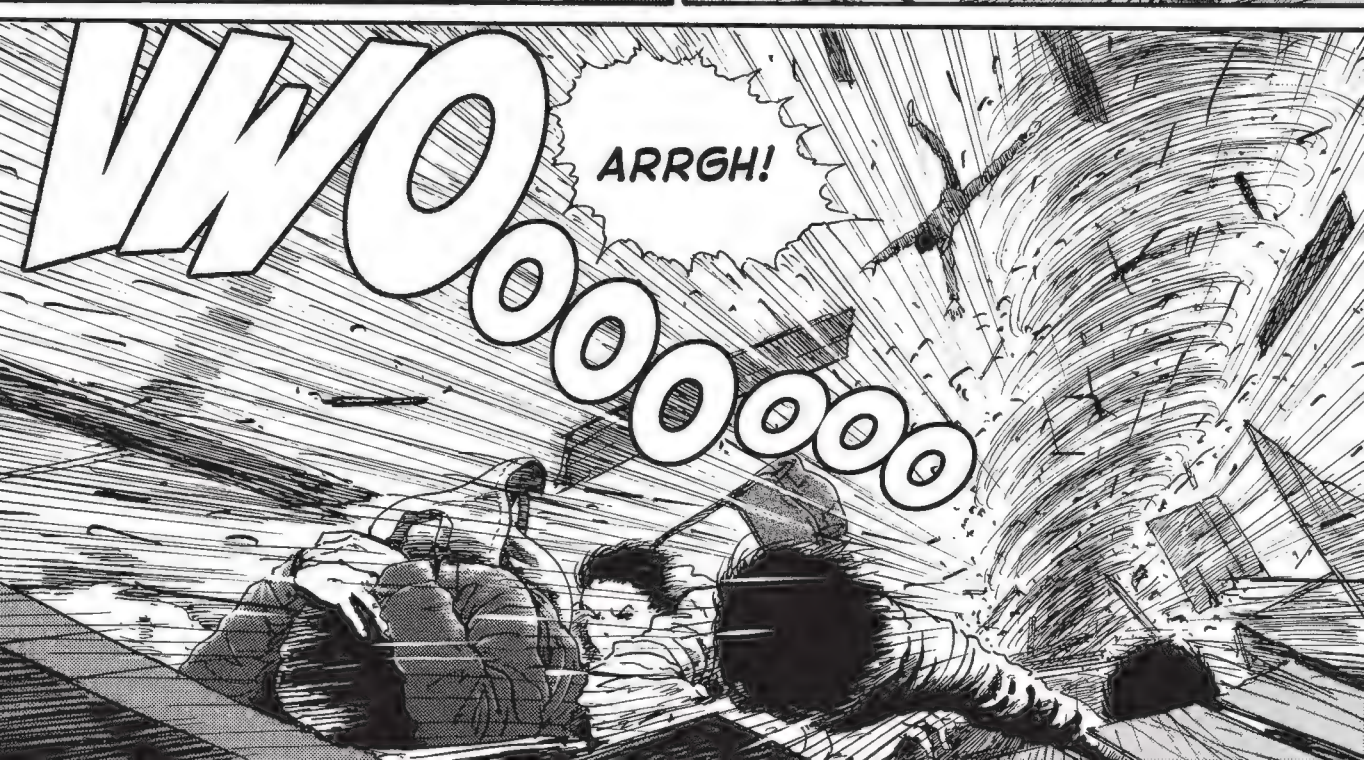
WALK
SLOWLY...



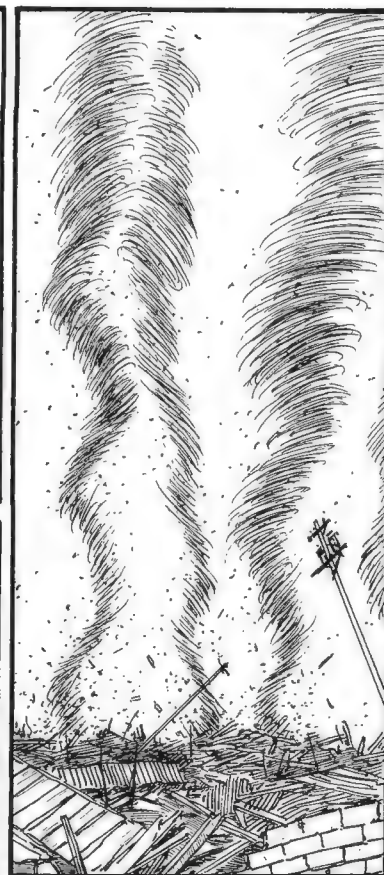
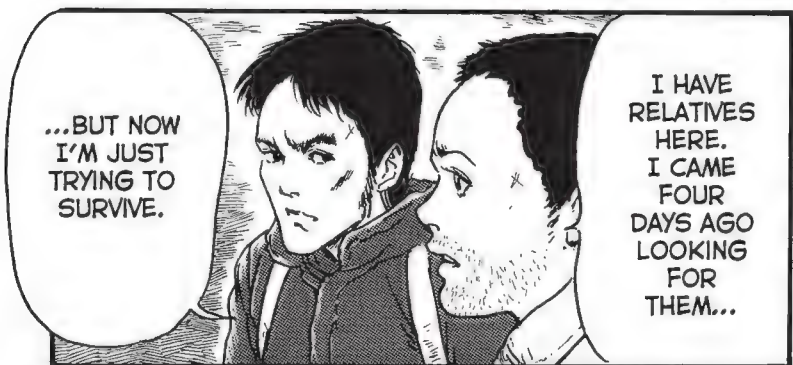
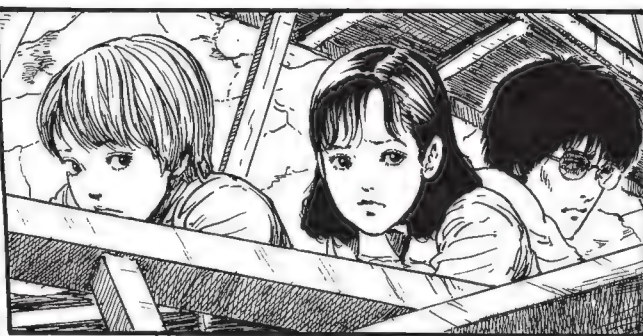
IT'S
COMING!
GET
DOWN!

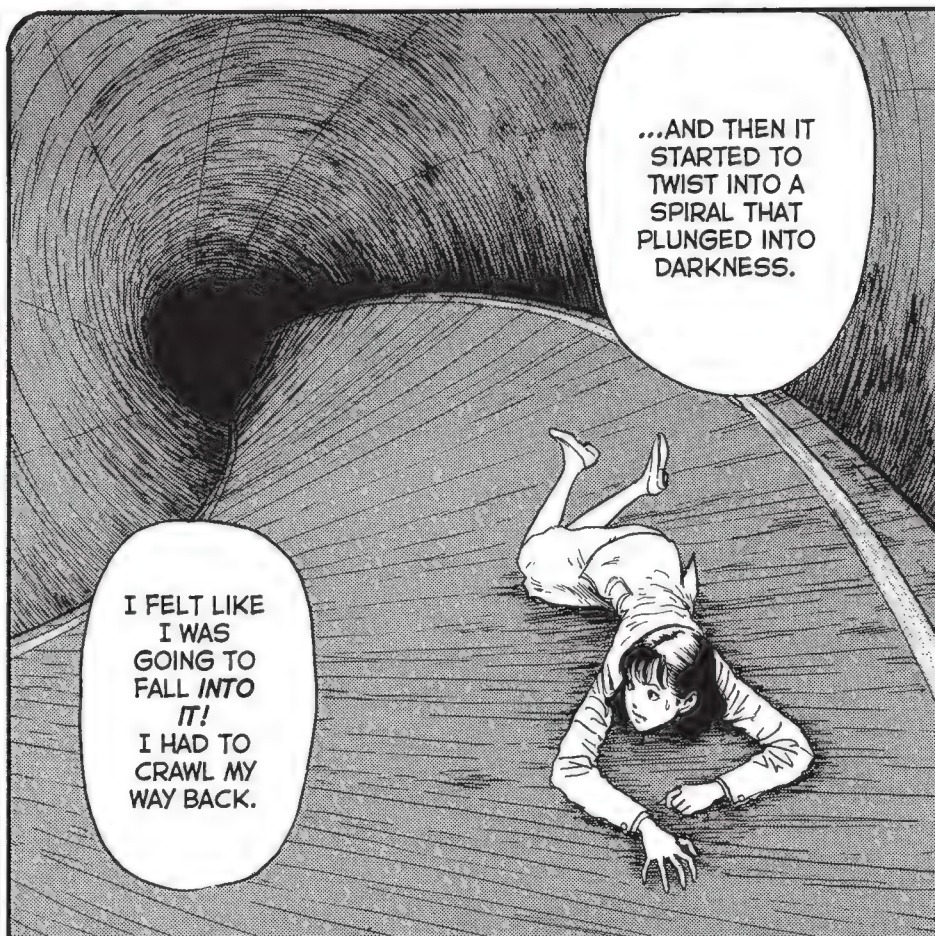


THE NUMBER
OF WHIRLWINDS
KEPT
INCREASING,
MAKING THE
TOWN ALL THE
MORE
DANGEROUS.



ARRGH!





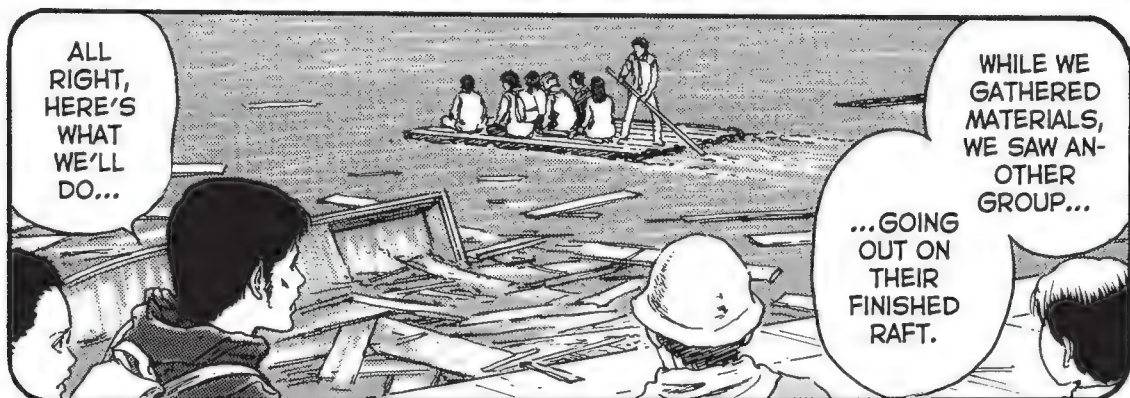


SOME OF US
DECIDED TO
BUILD A
RAFT.

ALL THE FISHING
BOATS IN THE
HARBOR WERE
WRECKED.
THEY MUST'VE
BEEN THE FIRST
THINGS TO GO IN
THE STORM.



I TRIED TO
ESCAPE BY
SEA.



ALL
RIGHT,
HERE'S
WHAT
WE'LL
DO...

WHILE WE
GATHERED
MATERIALS,
WE SAW AN-
OTHER
GROUP...

...GOING
OUT ON
THEIR
FINISHED
RAFT.



SSLLRR

AAAH!

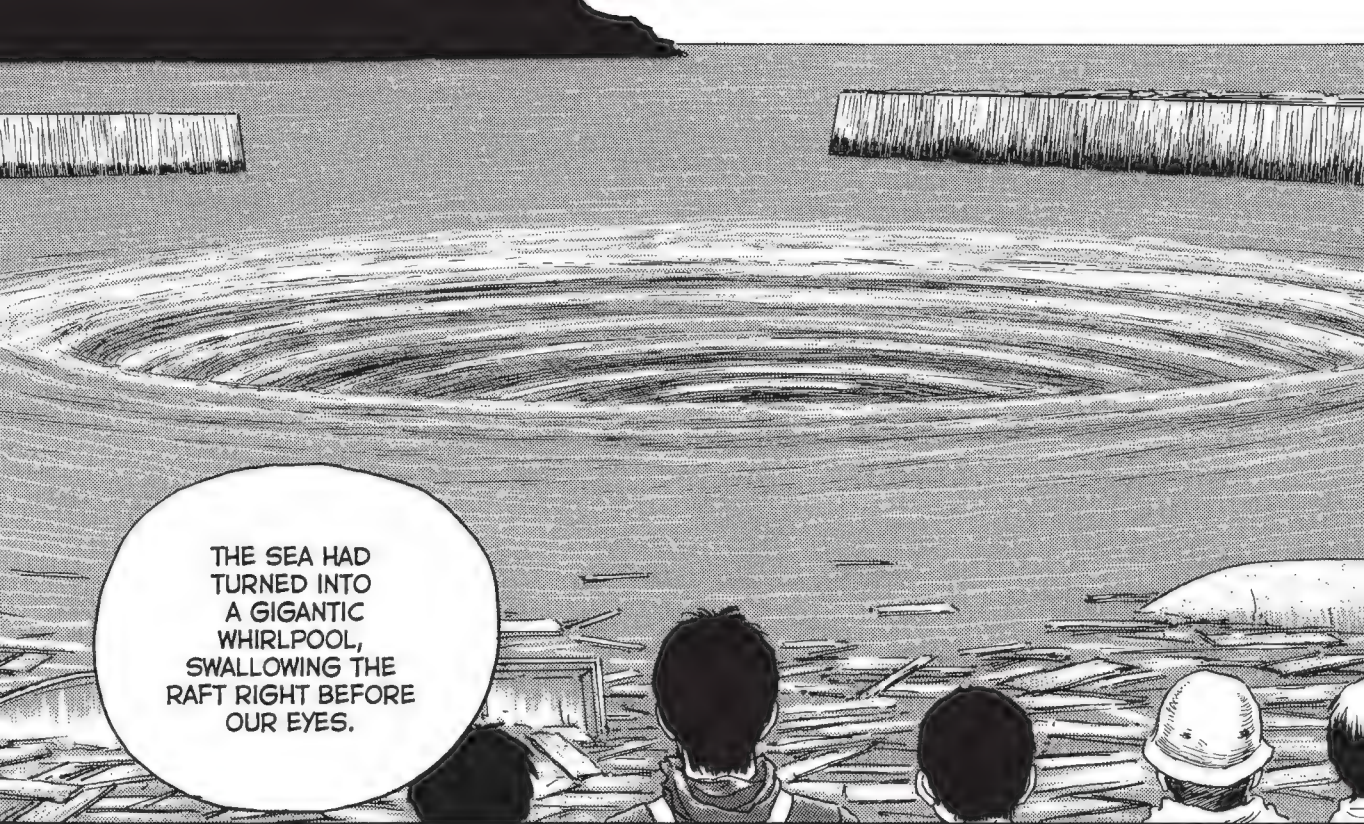


LOOK!

BUT
THEN...



SSHHRRR



THE SEA HAD
TURNED INTO
A GIGANTIC
WHIRLPOOL,
SWALLOWING THE
RAFT RIGHT BEFORE
OUR EYES.



YEAH...SOME
PEOPLE ARE IN
PRETTY BAD
SHAPE.
THEY'VE GONE
CRAZY.



OTHER-
WISE,
WE'RE
DOING
OKAY.

SO
THAT
WAY'S
OUT.



WE'RE
HEADING
THERE
RIGHT
NOW.

NO...ALL THE ROW
HOUSES ARE FULL.
WE'RE STAYING
UNDER A HOUSE
THAT'S COL-
LAPSED.

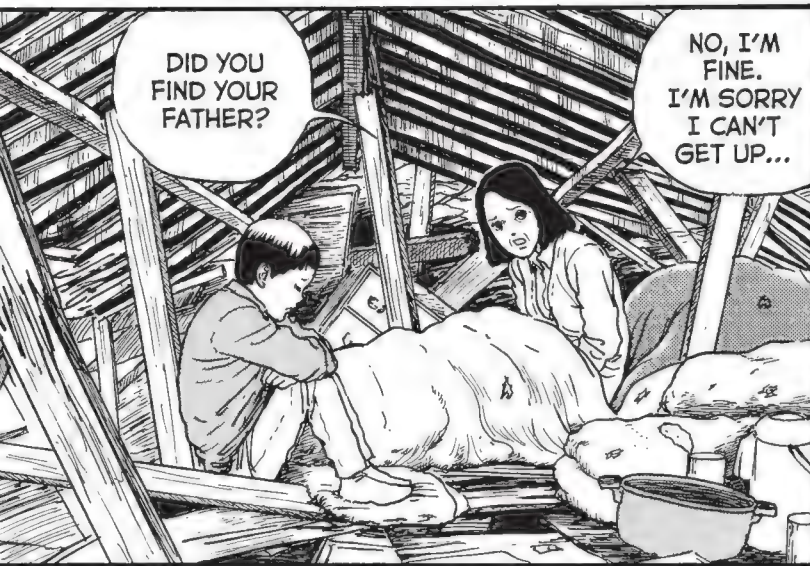


ARE YOU IN ONE
OF THE ROW
HOUSES?
IF SO, CAN YOU
LET US IN?
I HEAR THEY'RE
THE ONLY SAFE
PLACES LEFT.

BY THE WAY,
WHERE DO
YOU LIVE?



MY MOTHER
WAS HIT BY A
WHIRLWIND
AND CAN'T
MOVE.



DID YOU
FIND YOUR
FATHER?

NO, I'M
FINE.
I'M SORRY
I CAN'T
GET UP...



MOM, ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?
DOES IT HURT
AGAIN?



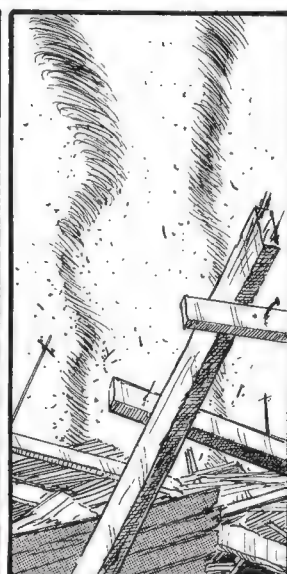
MOM!
MOM!
I'M SURE
HE'S FINE!

I KNEW IT!
THAT WHIRLWIND
JUST PICKED
HIM UP!
IT
SWALLOWED
HIM!

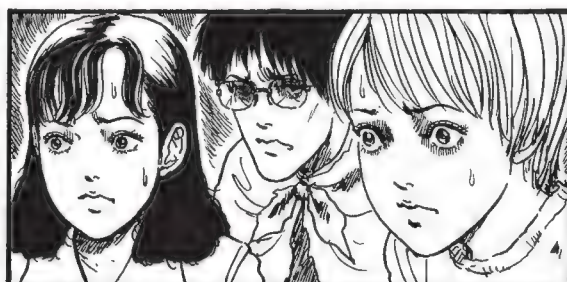
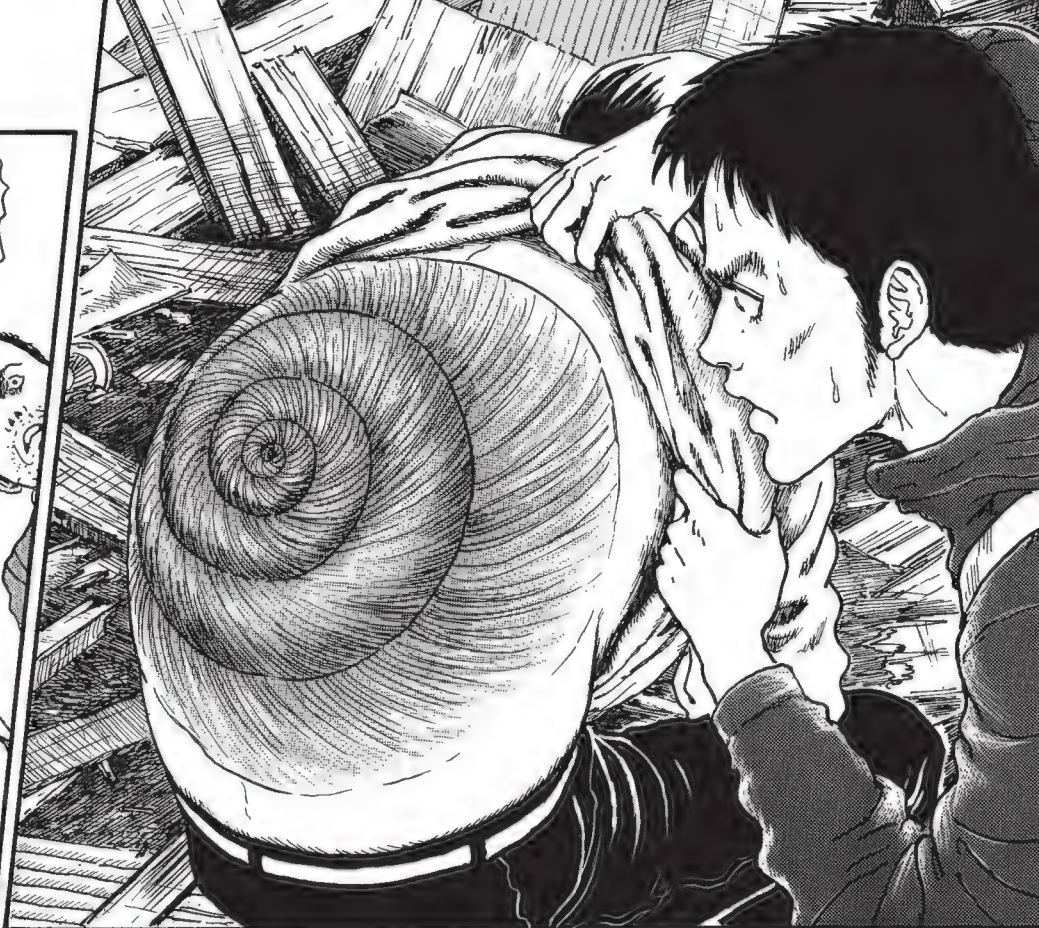
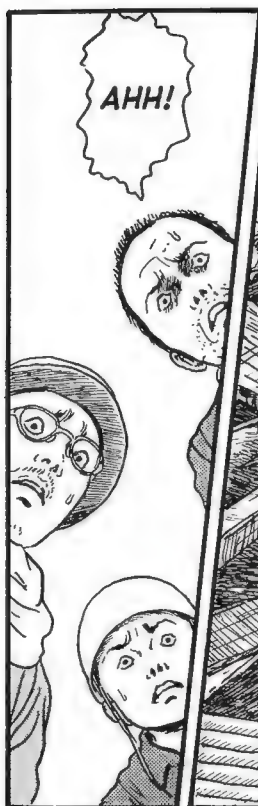


...BEEN
NO
SIGN.

I'VE
LOOKED,
BUT SO
FAR
THERE'S...











WE WON'T
HAVE TO
MOVE SO
SLOWLY
THEN.

IN ANY CASE,
WE HAVE TO
FIND A ROW
HOUSE WITH
SPACE TO
SLEEP.



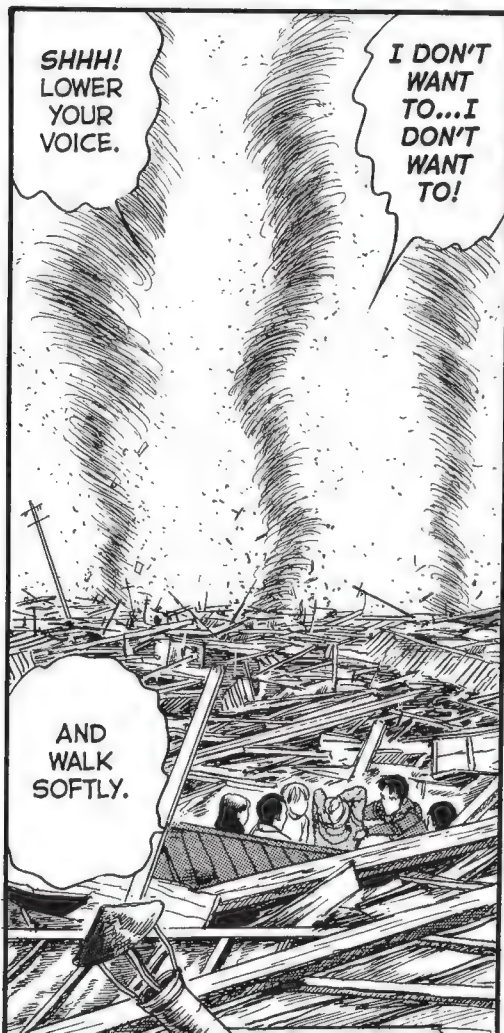
...SO
WE CAN
ONLY GO
ON WHAT
WE DO
KNOW.

YES
...



I MEAN, WE
REALLY
DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S
MAKING
PEOPLE
CHANGE
INTO
SNAILS.

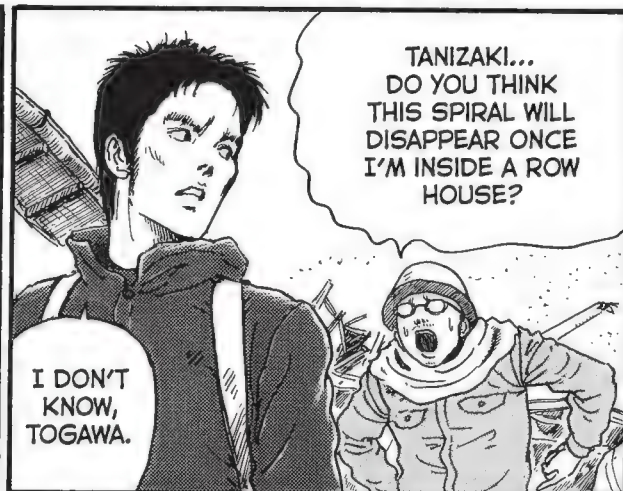
BUT HOW
SAFE DO
YOU
THINK
THESE
HOUSES
ARE?



SHHH!
LOWER
YOUR
VOICE.

I DON'T
WANT
TO...I
DON'T
WANT
TO!

AND
WALK
SOFTLY.



TANIZAKI...
DO YOU THINK
THIS SPIRAL WILL
DISAPPEAR ONCE
I'M INSIDE A ROW
HOUSE?

I DON'T
KNOW,
TOGAWA.



SOME-
BODY
HELP
ME!

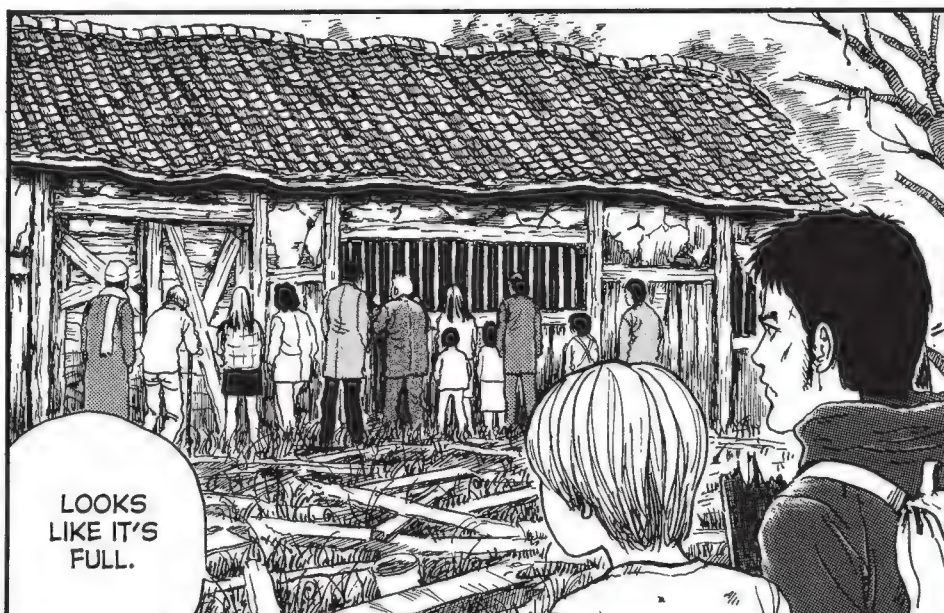
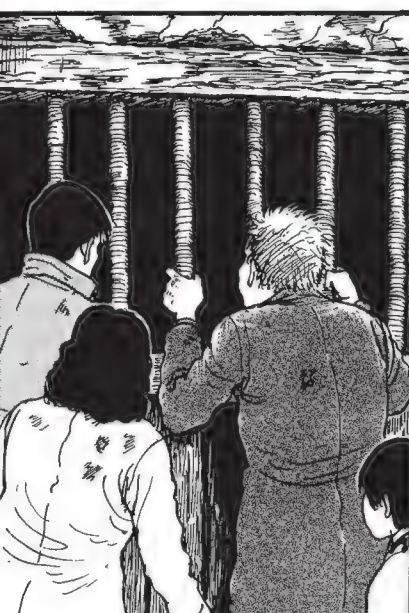
I-I DON'T
WANT TO
TURN INTO
A SNAIL!



HERE
IT IS.



WE SHOULD
SEE ONE
SOON.



LOOKS
LIKE IT'S
FULL.



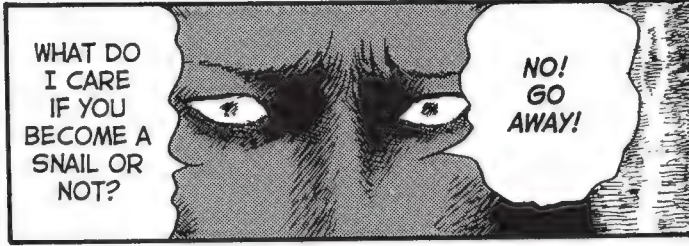
THEY'RE ALL FULL!
IF WE STAY OUTSIDE WE
MIGHT TURN INTO
THOSE THINGS.
YOU HAVE TO
HELP US!

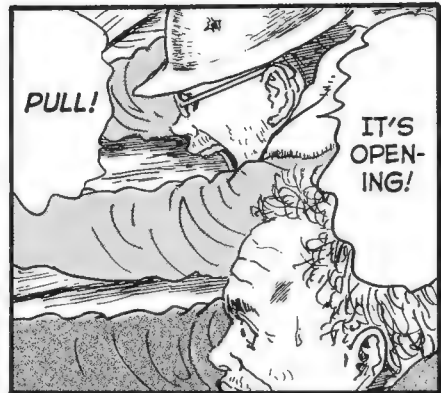
WHO
CARES?
GO AWAY!



PLEASE
LET US IN!

NO!
IT'S FULL!
GO
SOMEWHERE
ELSE.

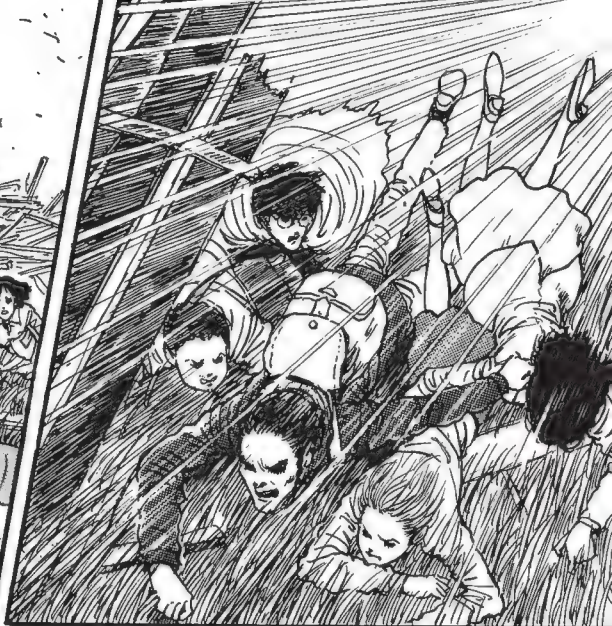






YOU'RE
INHUMAN!

BASTARDS!
HOW COULD
YOU?



GET
THEM!

YEAH!



THAT'S
IT!

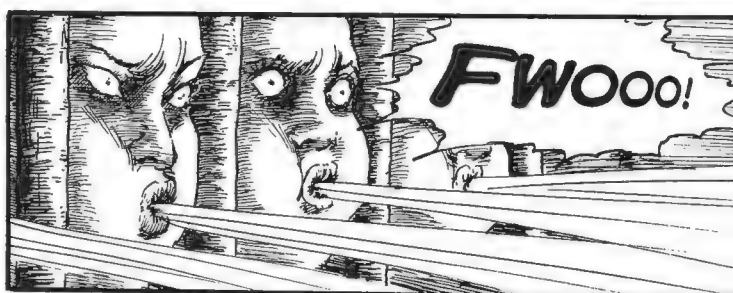


KEEP ON COMPLAINING
AND WE'LL BLOW YOU
AWAY!



FWOO!

TAKE
THIS!



FWOOO!



WAAGH!

HWRRRRRR



ATTACK!!



NOW!



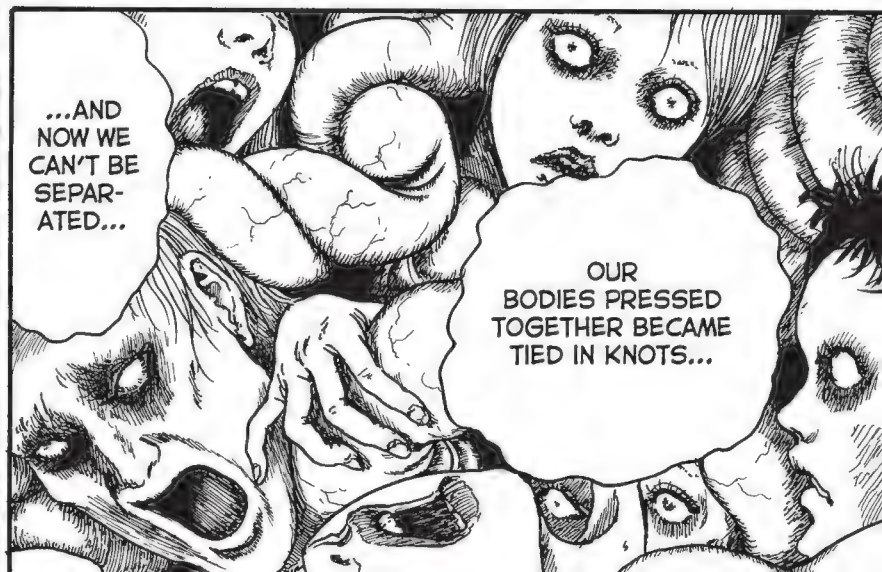
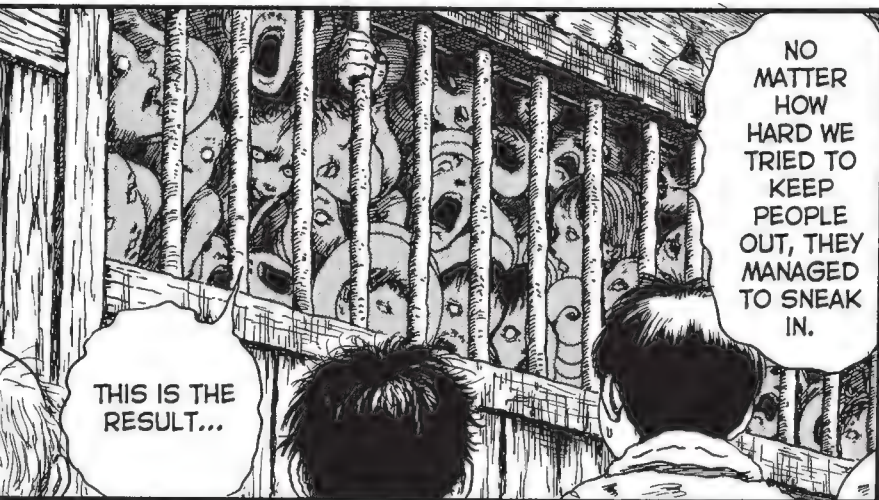
WE'VE
BROKEN
IN! LET'S
GO!



K/
H
O
O
O
O
O / CRACK

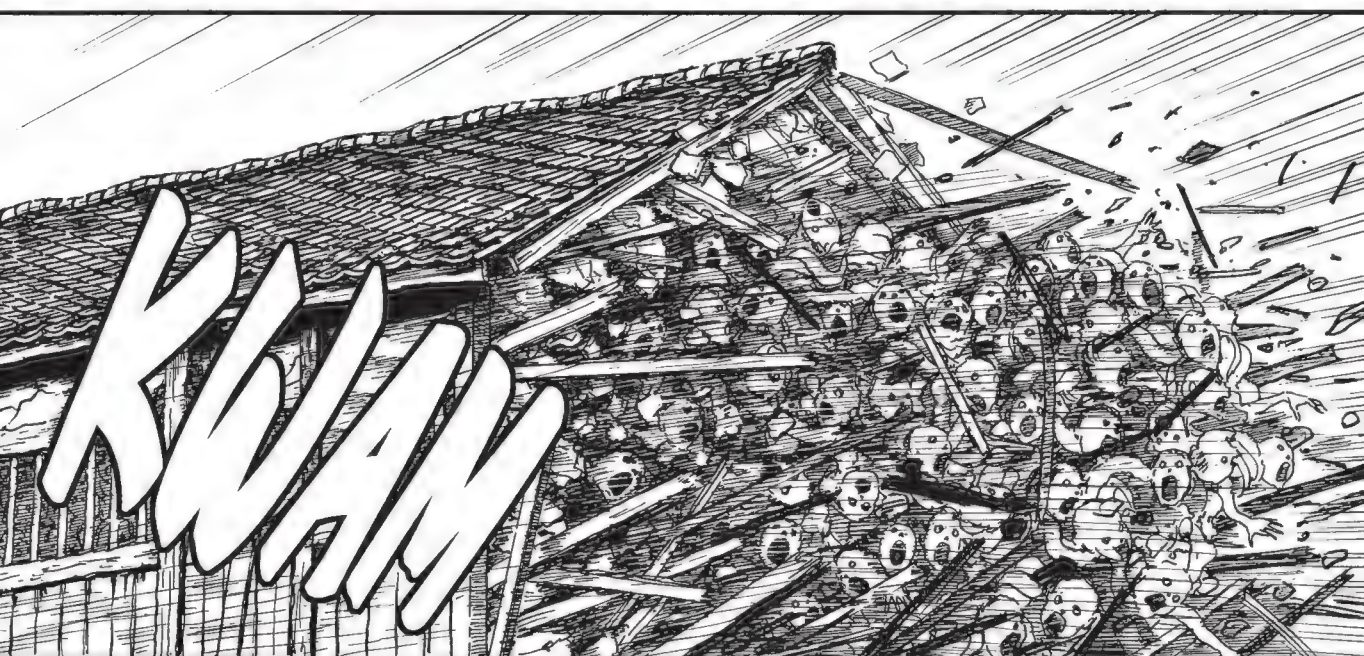
UNWOOO

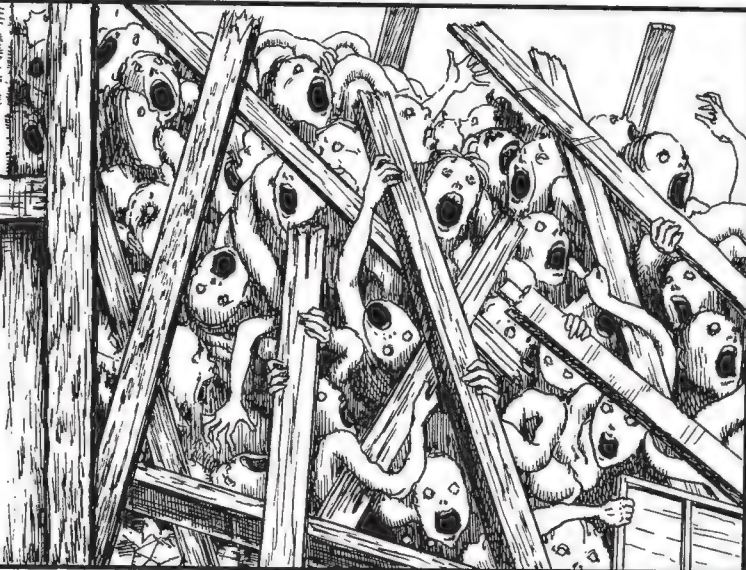
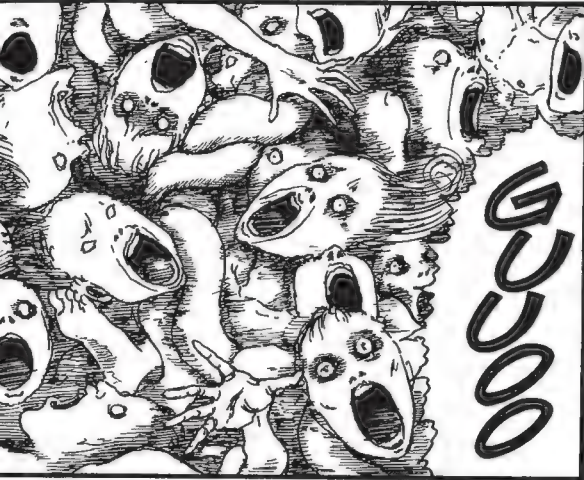
HUH?

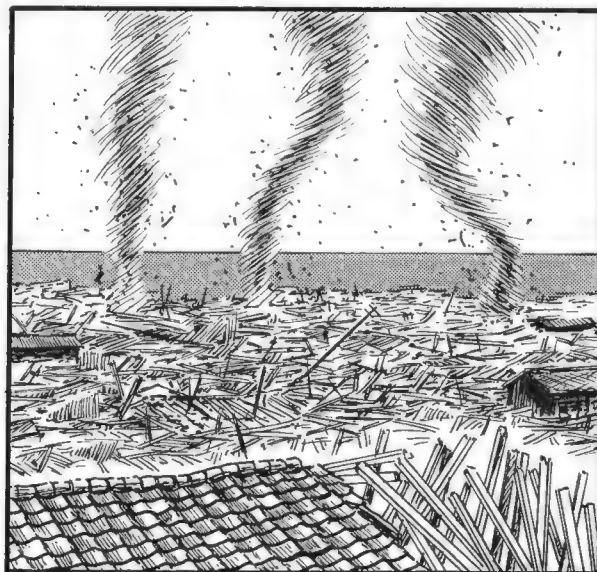
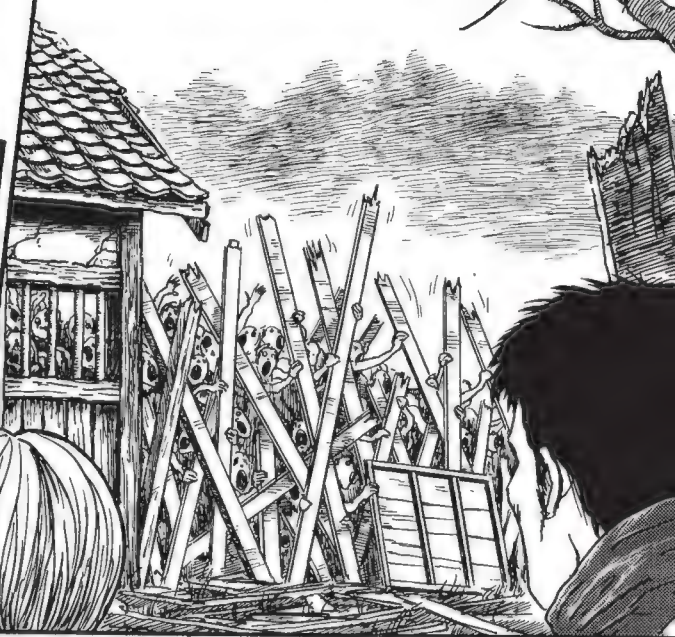


OUR
BODIES PRESSED
TOGETHER BECAME
TIED IN KNOTS...













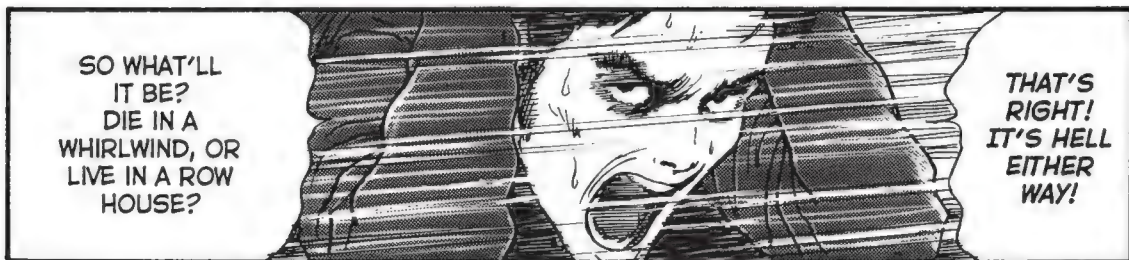
ARGH!



HUH
?!



GET
DOWN!



SO WHAT'LL
IT BE?
DIE IN A
WHIRLWIND, OR
LIVE IN A ROW
HOUSE?

THAT'S
RIGHT!
IT'S HELL
EITHER
WAY!



I SEE
SHIPS!
LOTS OF
SHIPS!

WHAT
IS IT?!

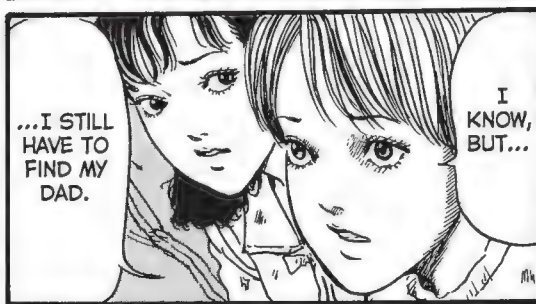
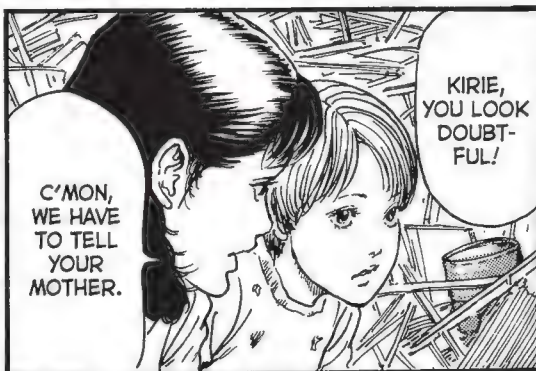
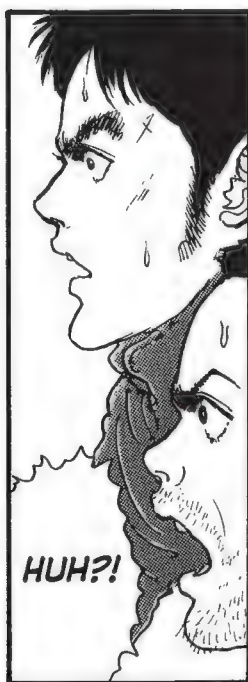
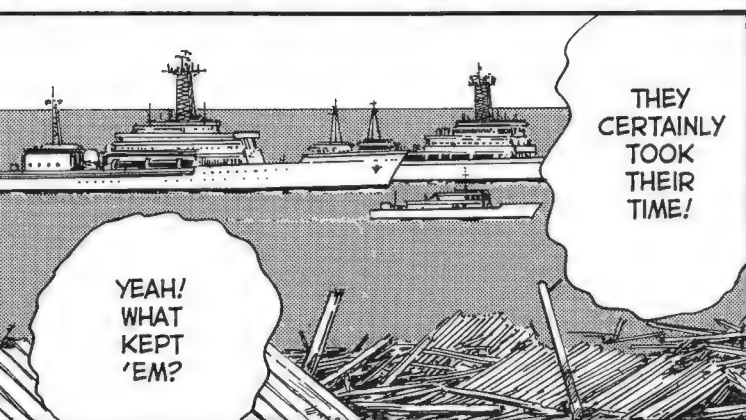
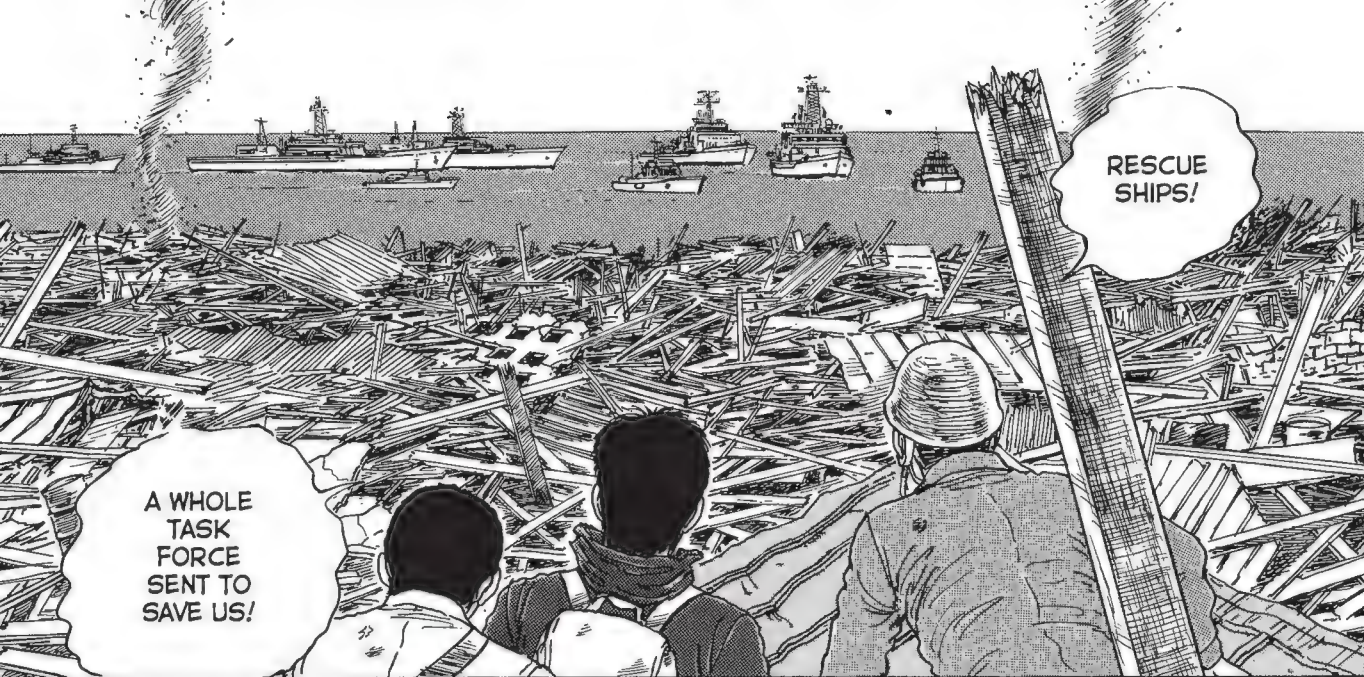


THAT'S
RIGHT!
THERE
MUST
BE
SOME
WAY!

I WANT
TO GET
OUT!

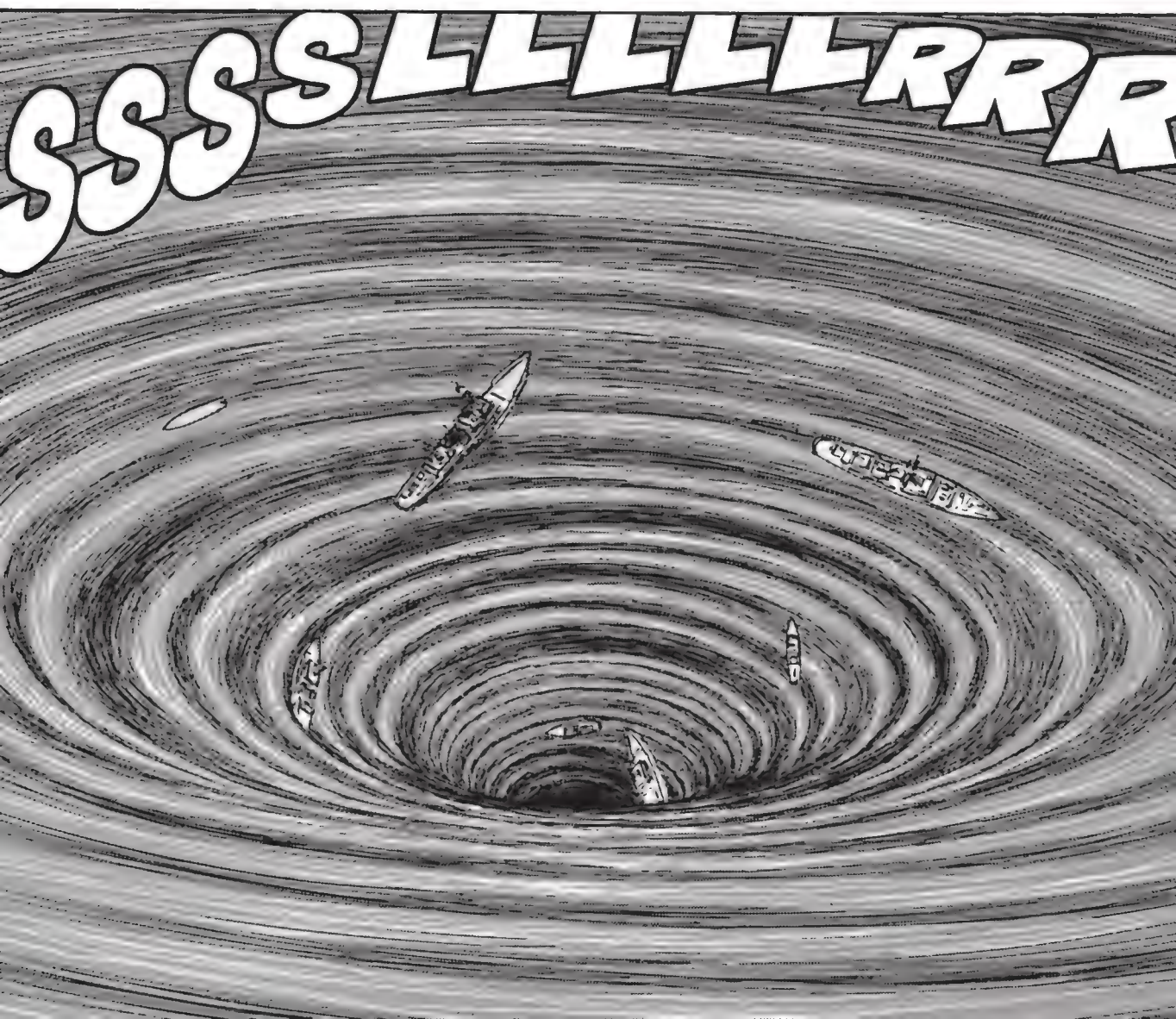


LOOK
OVER
THERE!

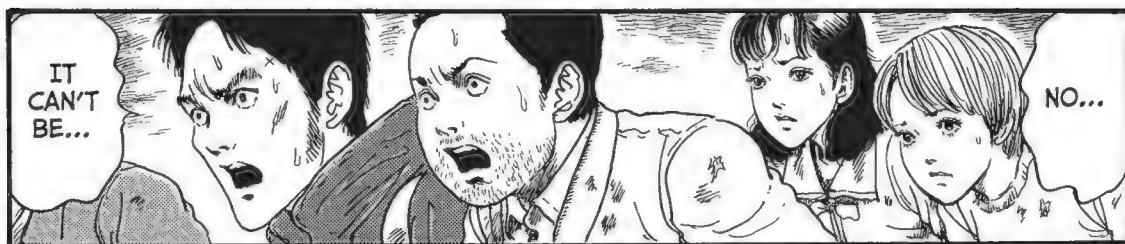




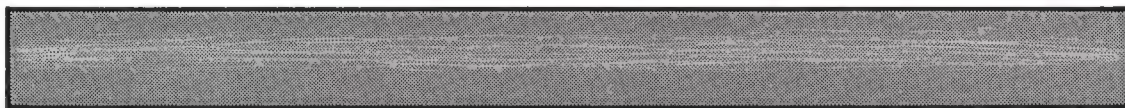
SS SSH HH HH HH



SSSSLLLLRRR



SSSSLLLLLRRRR R





I FOUND
SOME
MEAT!

HEY
EVERY-
ONE!



ISN'T THERE
ANYTHING IN
TOWN? SOME
CANNED FOOD?

IT ISN'T
ENOUGH
TO
SUSTAIN
US.

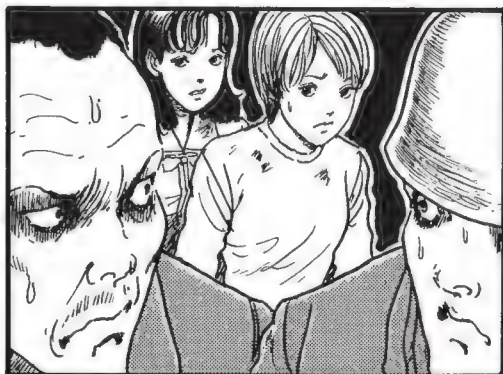


PROBABLY
LEFT HERE BY
A GANG.

SOMEONE
COOKED ONE OF
THOSE SNAIL
PEO...SNAILS.



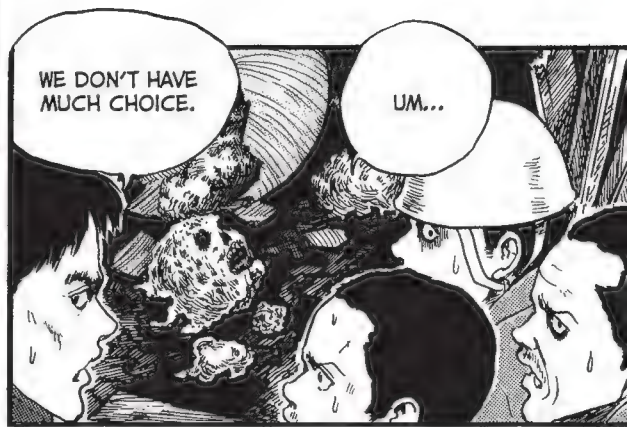
WHAT?
REALLY?!



...

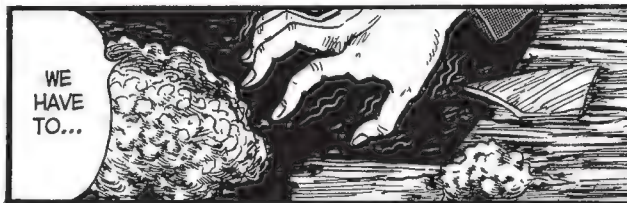
...YOU
MEANT BY
MEAT?

S-SO
THIS IS
WHAT...



WE DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE.

UM...



WE HAVE TO...



IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S REALLY HUMAN ANYMORE.

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE CHOOSY.



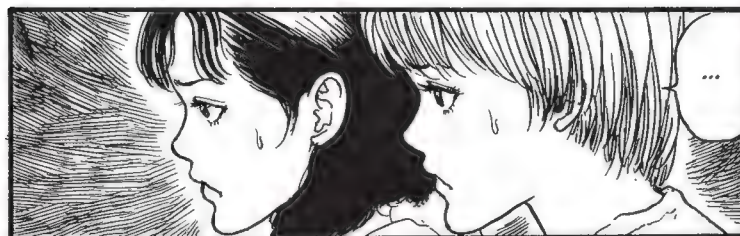
YOU SHOULD HAVE SOME.

KIRIE...IT DOESN'T TASTE BAD.



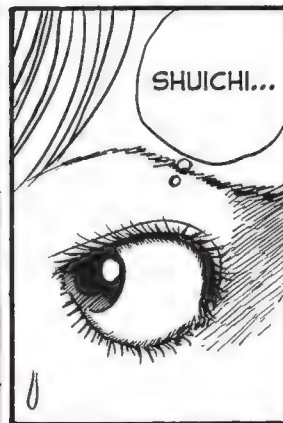
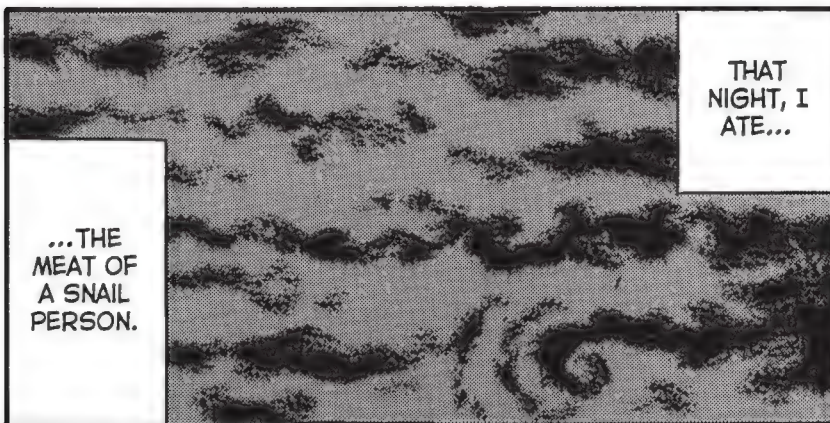
WE'D BETTER SEE HE DOESN'T WANDER OFF, THOUGH ... Y'KNOW ?

OKAMOTO'S NOT DIGGING IN. POOR GUY... GUESS I CAN'T REALLY BLAME HIM.



YEAH.

IF I'D KNOWN IT WAS THIS GOOD I'D'VE EATEN ONE SOONER.





HM?

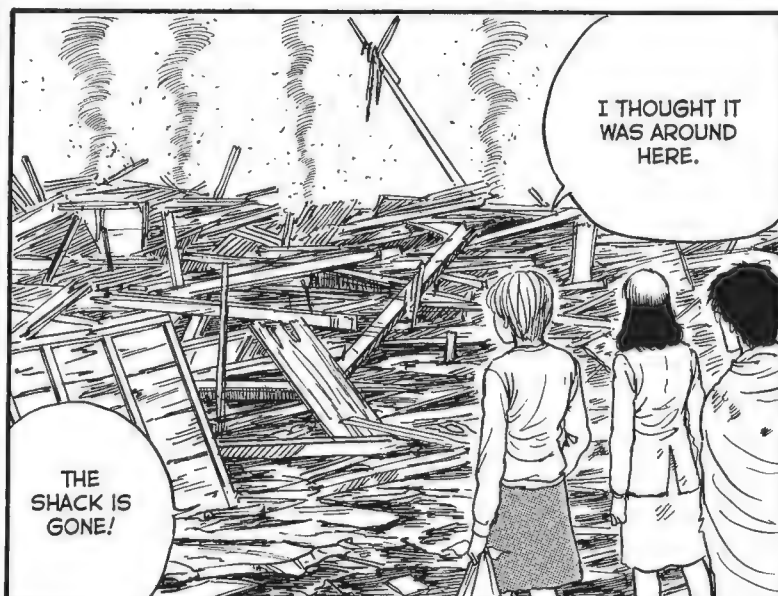


WE
BROUGHT
THE LAST
SCRAPS OF
MEAT WITH
US IN AN
OLD
PLASTIC
BAG.

NEXT MORN-
ING WE LEFT
TANIZAKI'S
GROUP AND
HEADED
BACK TO THE
SHACK
WHERE MY
MOTHER AND
MITSUO WERE
STAYING.



N-NO...



I THOUGHT IT
WAS AROUND
HERE.

THE
SHACK IS
GONE!



IT WAS A
WHIRLWIND,
RIGHT?

I'LL
GET
YOU
OUT!

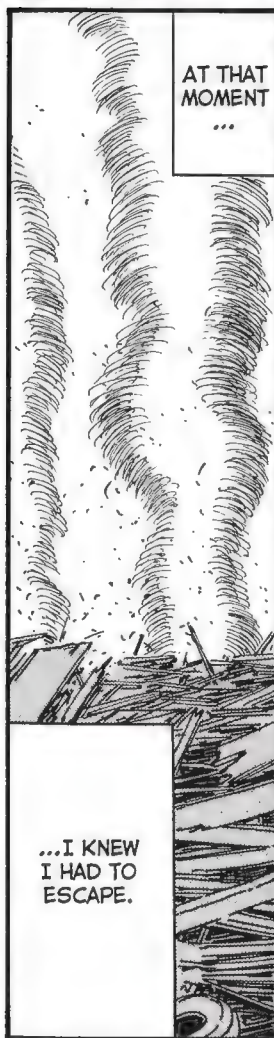


KIRIE!
I'M
STUCK!

MITSUO!



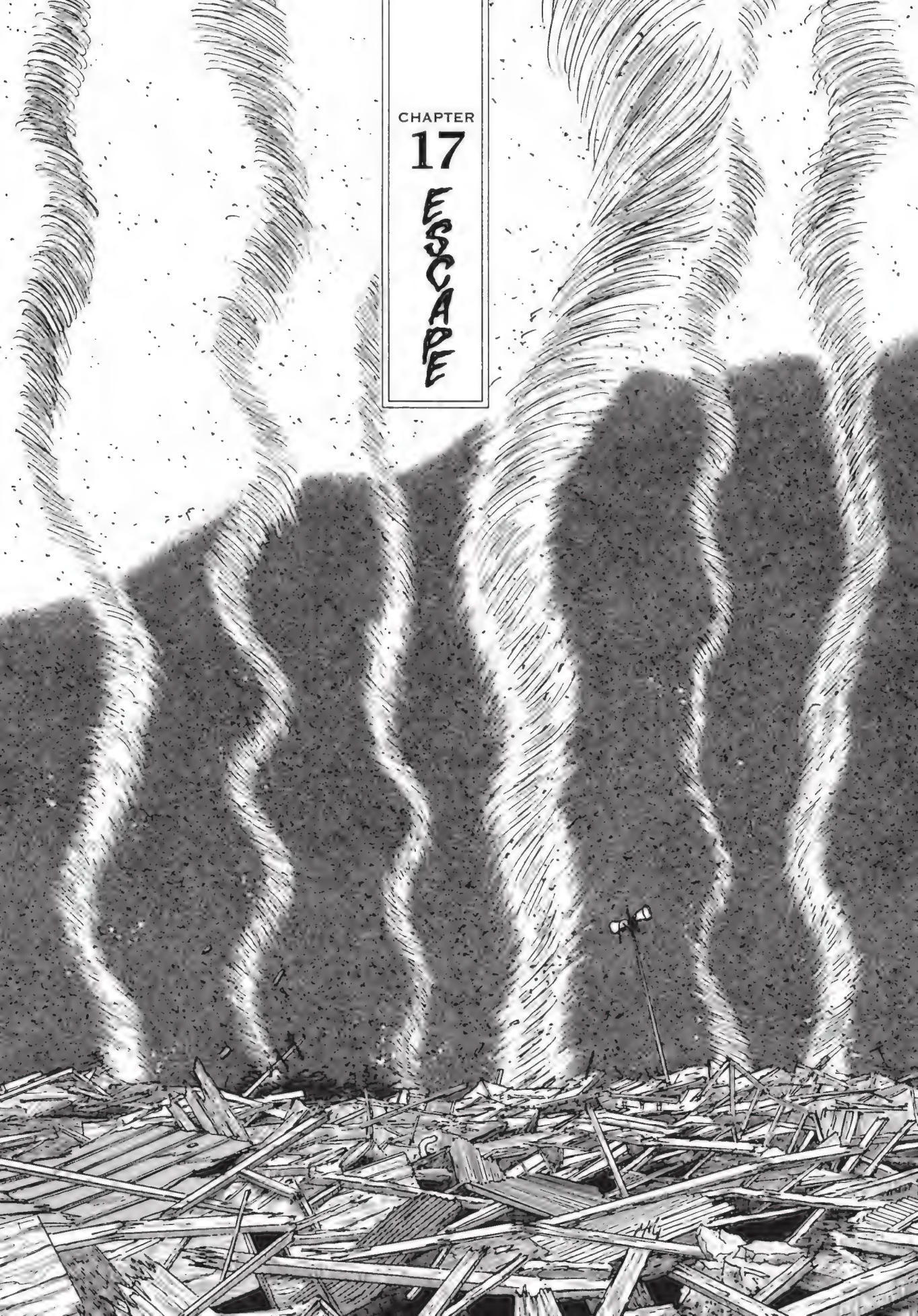
KIRIE!

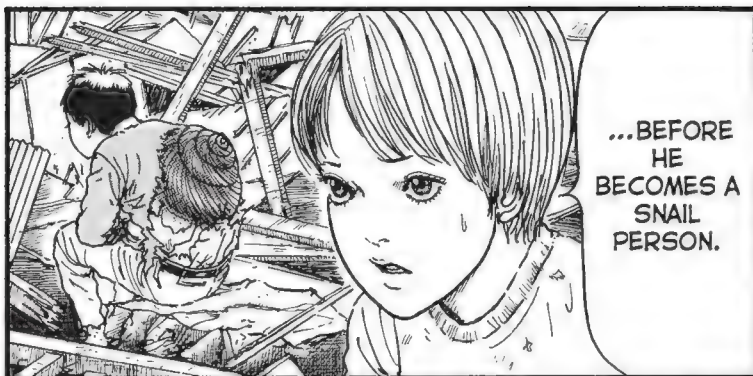


CHAPTER

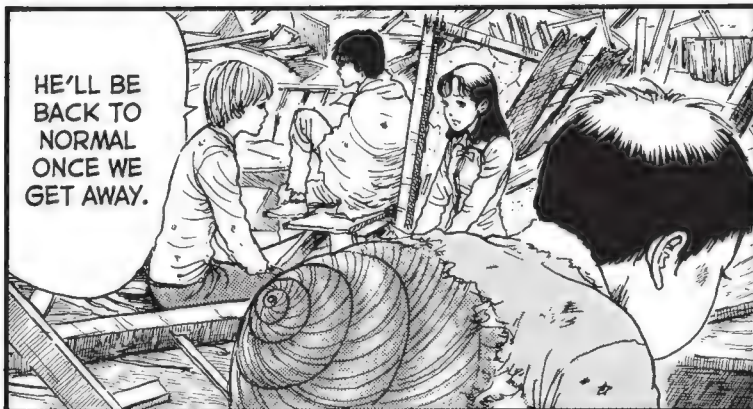
17

ESCAPE





...BEFORE
HE
BECOMES A
SNAIL
PERSON.

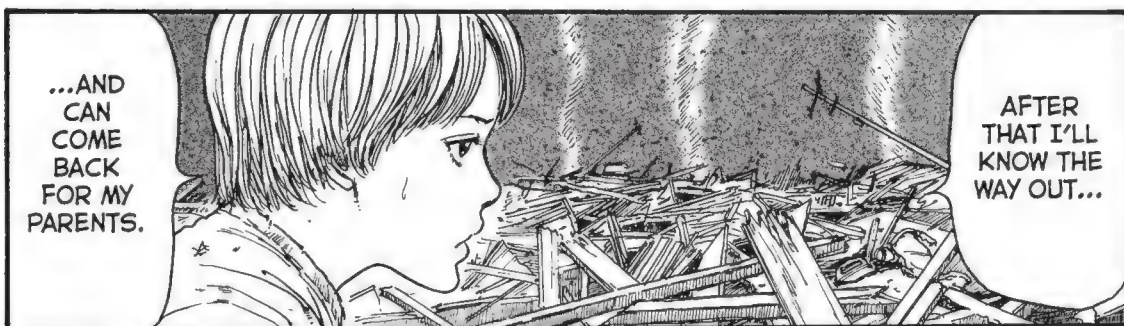


HE'LL BE
BACK TO
NORMAL
ONCE WE
GET AWAY.



WE'RE
GOING.

I'VE GOT
TO GET
MITSUO
OUT OF
HERE...

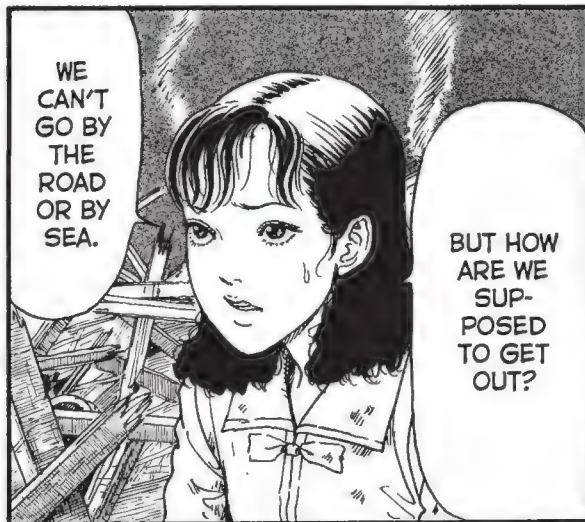


...AND
CAN
COME
BACK
FOR MY
PARENTS.

AFTER
THAT I'LL
KNOW THE
WAY OUT...

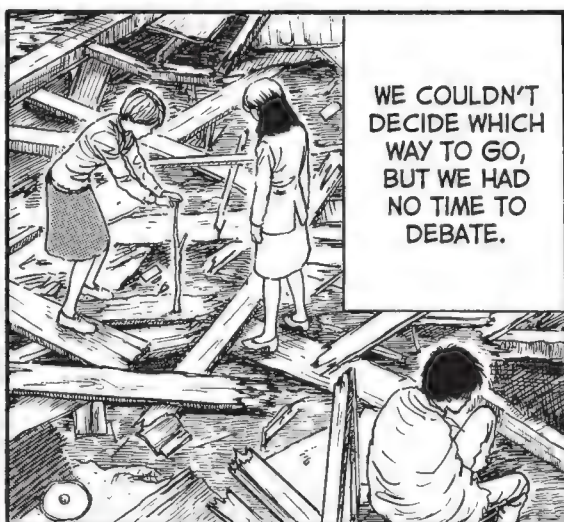
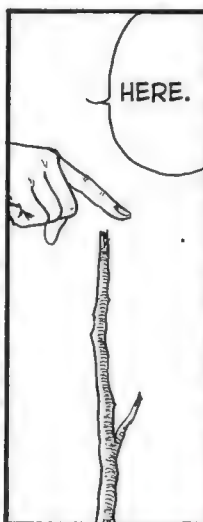


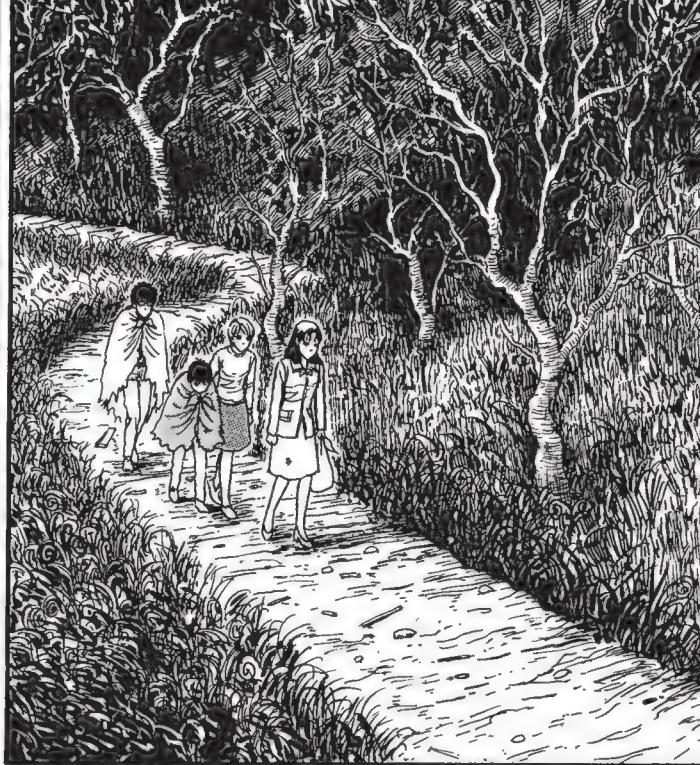
WHAT
ABOUT
THE
HILLS?

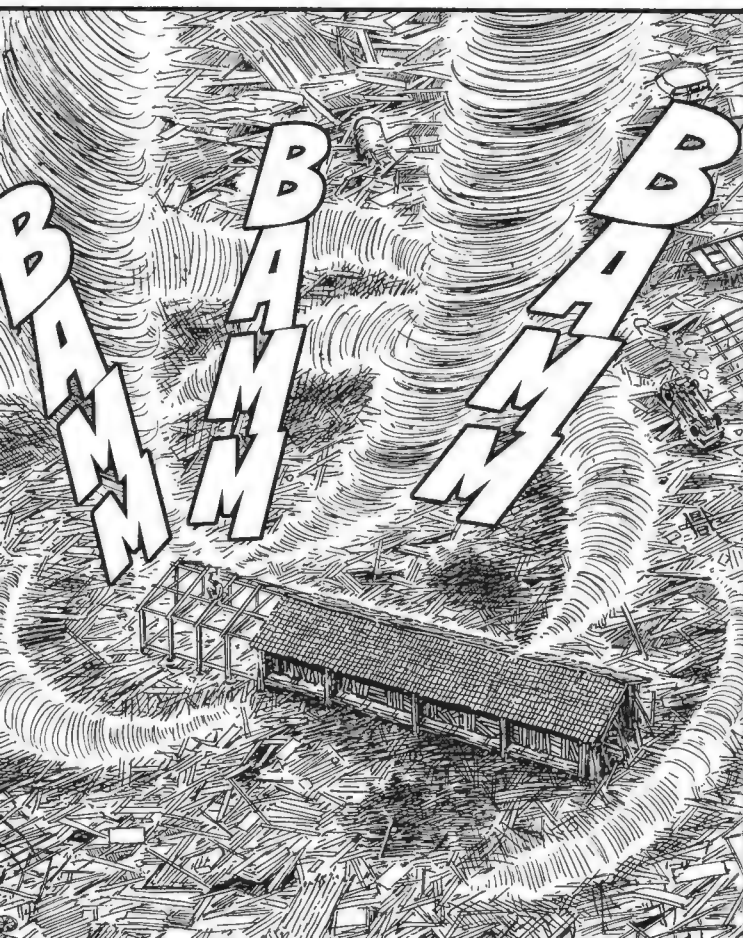
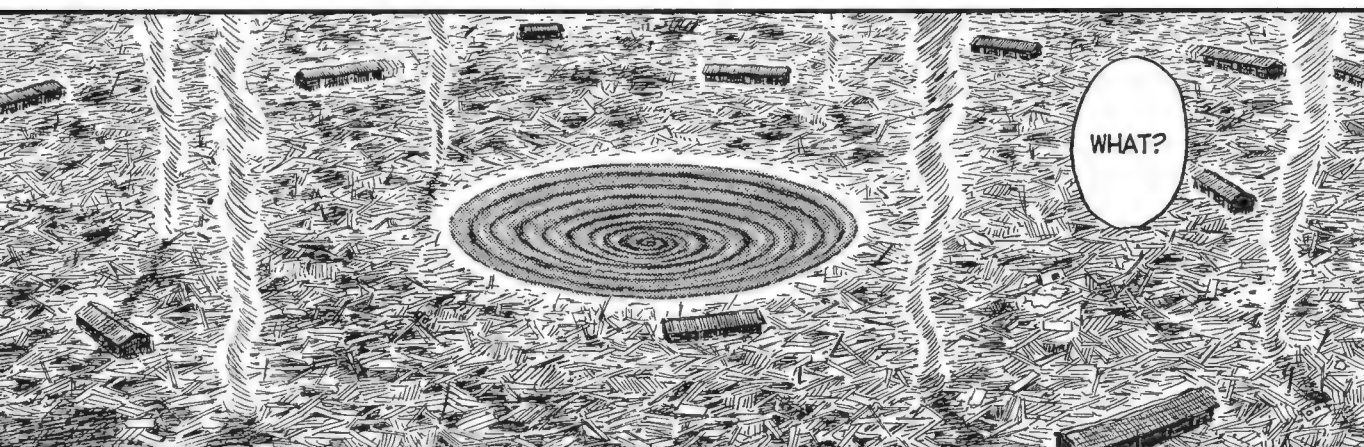


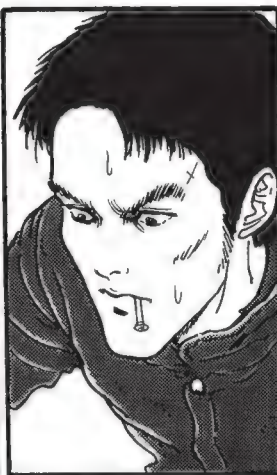
WE
CAN'T
GO BY
THE
ROAD
OR BY
SEA.

BUT HOW
ARE WE
SUP-
POSED
TO GET
OUT?











ALL AROUND THE
TOWN, PEOPLE
WERE ADDING
EXTENSIONS TO
THE HOUSES.

WHEN I LOOKED
CLOSER,
I SAW THAT MR.
TANIZAKI WASN'T
ALONE.

L-LET'S
GO.

WHOOO

WHOOOOOO

IT SOUNDED OFF
AT IRREGULAR
INTERVALS, AS IF
SIGNALING THE
ESCAPE OF
PRISONERS.

THE POWER
HAD BEEN
OFF SINCE
THE STORM,
BUT THE
SIREN STILL
BLARED.

WHOOOOOO



WHOOOOOO

IT STABS
THROUGH
MY EARS!

THAT
SOUND!

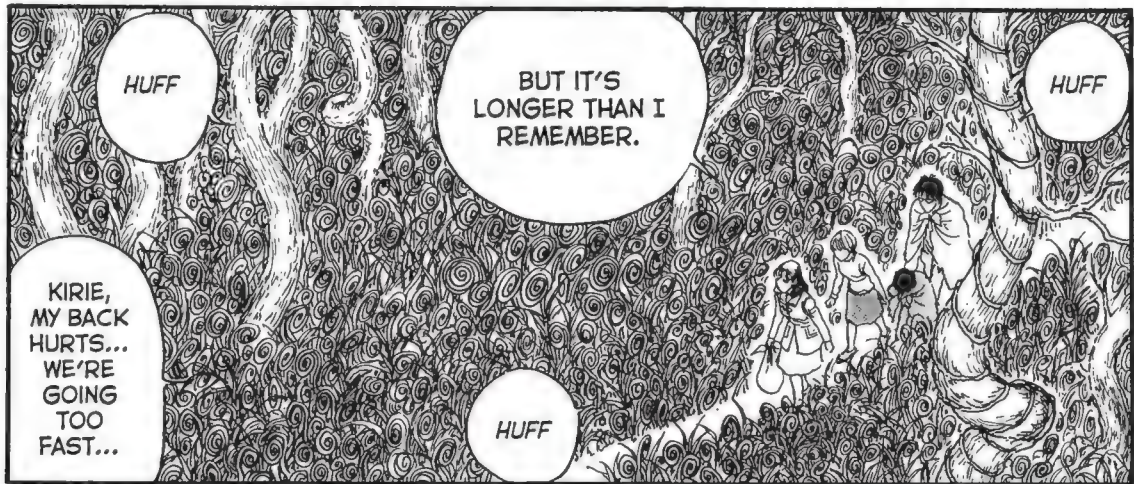
ARGH!
COME
ON!



THE GRASS,
THE
TREES...

HOW
LONG
HAVE
THEY
BEEN
LIKE
THIS?







WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



WHAT?

WHY'D YOU COME THIS WAY?

MR. TAKEMOTO?



WE JUST LEFT TOWN TOO.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THE ROAD'S THIS WAY.



THERE'S A MOUNTAIN ROAD THAT'S SUPPOSED TO LEAD TO THE NEXT TOWN.

WE'RE TRYING TO GET OUT OF KUROUZU-CHO.



IT SEEMS YOU CAME BACK HERE WITHOUT REALIZING IT.



WE TOOK THE TRAIL RIGHT BY KUROUZU HIGH SCHOOL.

WHICH TRAIL DID YOU TAKE?



SO WE WERE JUST FOLLOWING YOU.

WE TOOK THE SAME ONE BECAUSE WE SAW YOU AHEAD.

NONE OF
THESE
PATHS
WORKS!
THEY ALL
LEAD
BACK!

DAMN IT,
I'M SICK
OF THIS!

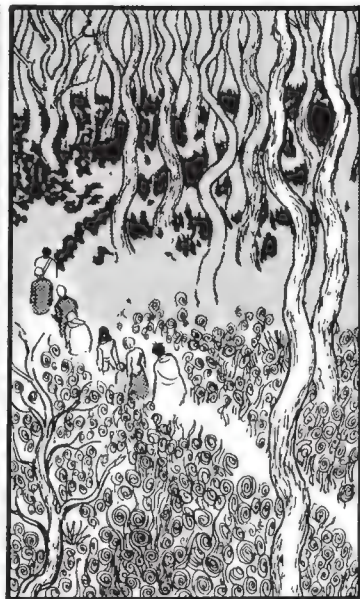
LOOKS
LIKE IT.

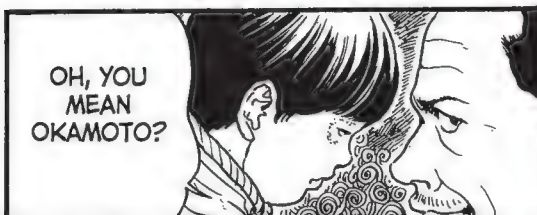
WHAT DO WE
DO NOW?
IF WE KEEP
GOING, WE'LL
PROBABLY END
UP BACK HERE
AGAIN.

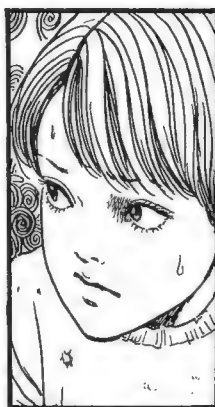
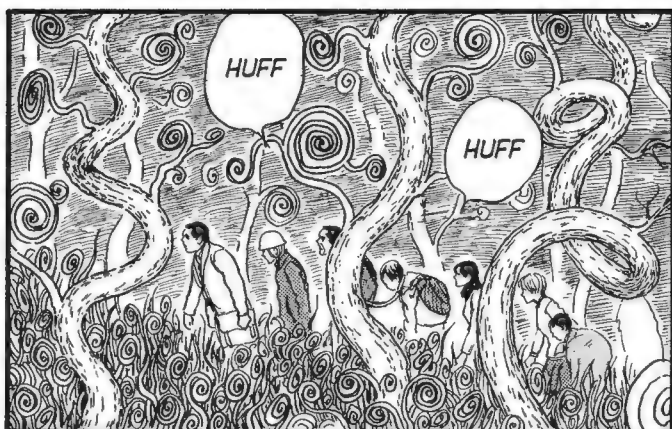
BEST THING
IS TO KEEP
MOVING.

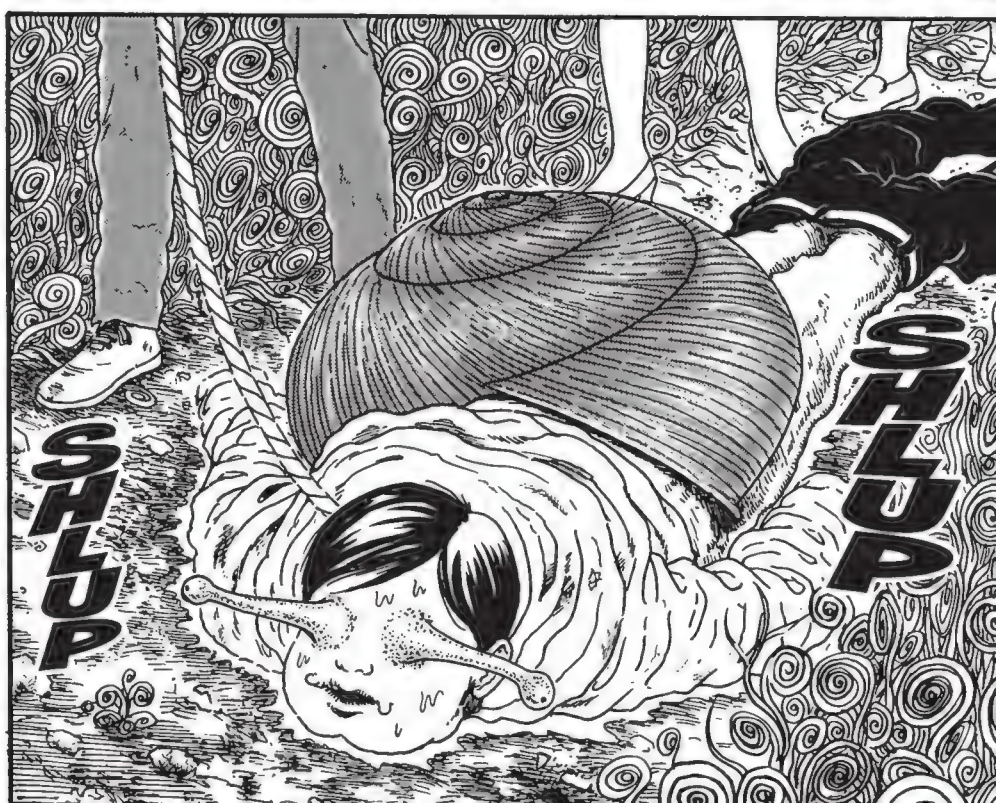
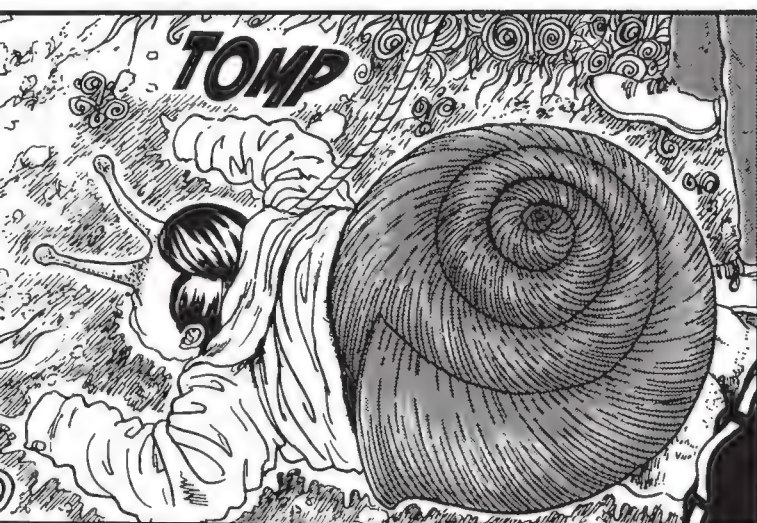
CALM DOWN!
WE CAN'T
GIVE UP YET!

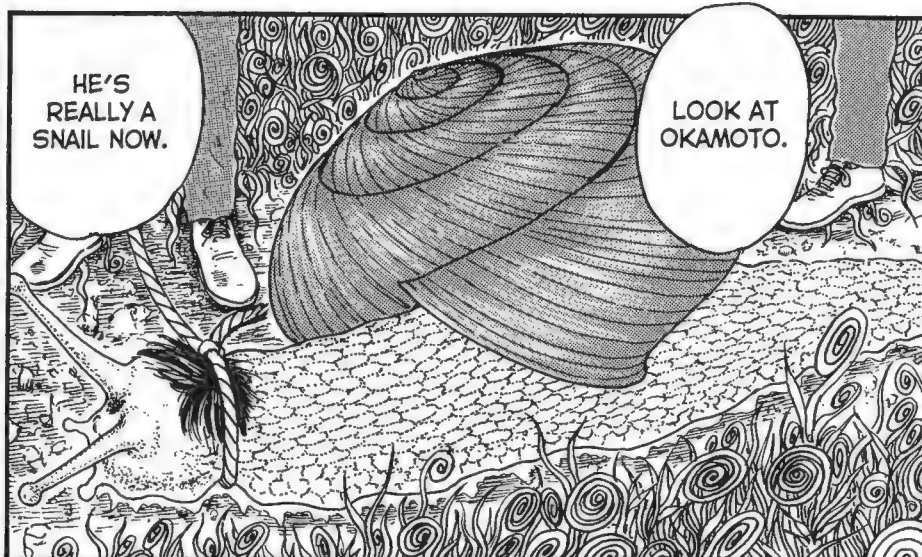
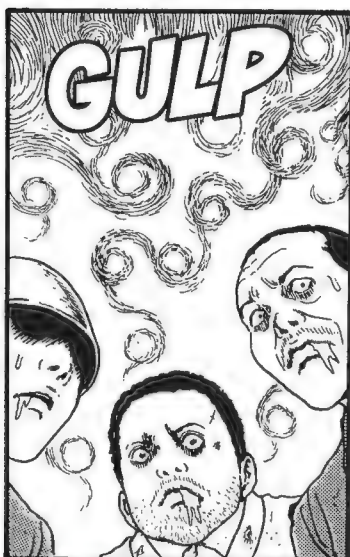
WE'LL
NEVER
GET
OUT!











HE'S
HIDING
FROM US!

HEY!



I'LL
SHOW
YOU THE
BEST WAY
TO EAT
HIM!

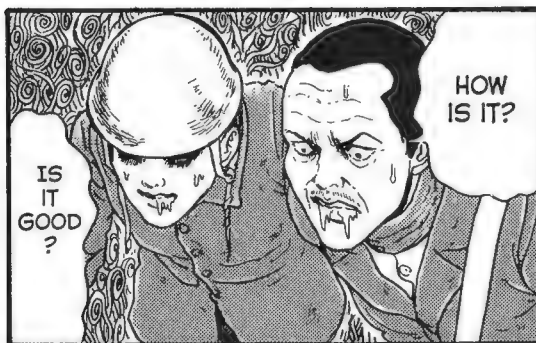
JUST
WATCH
...

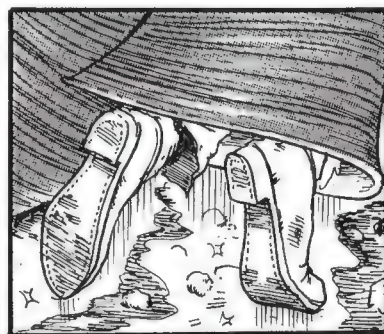
HOLD IT!
YOU'LL MAKE
A WHIRLWIND
IF YOU THROW
THAT.

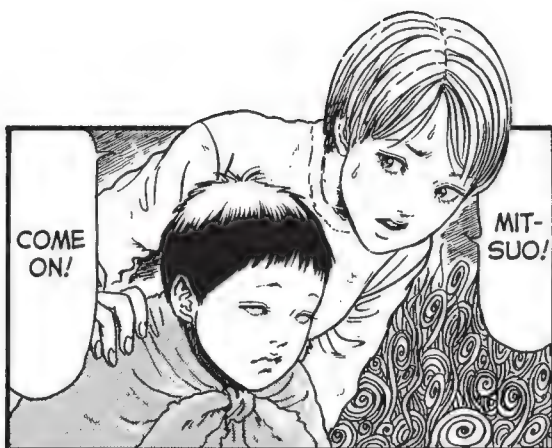
LET'S
JUST
CRACK
HIM
OPEN.



DID YOU KNOW
THAT SOME
INSECTS EAT
SNAILS THIS
WAY?

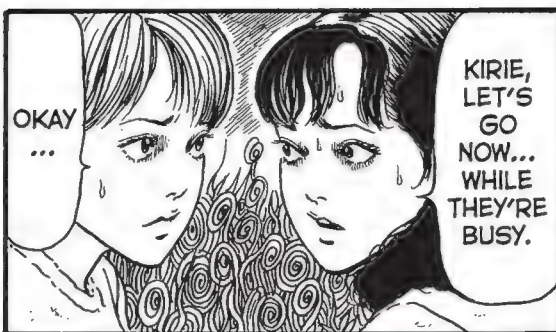






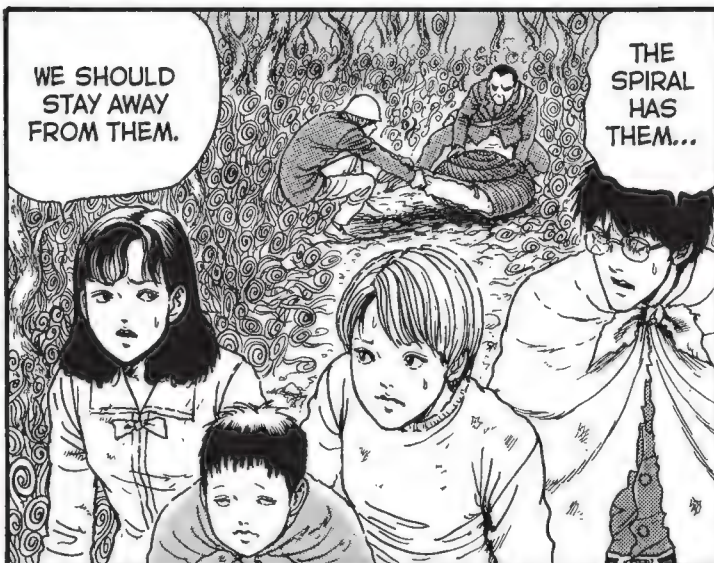
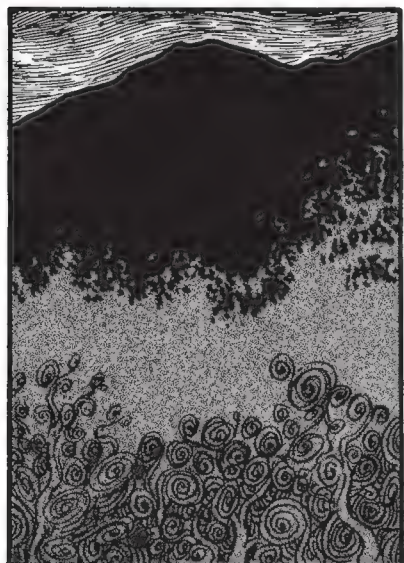
COME ON!

MIT-SUO!



OKAY ...

KIRIE, LET'S GO NOW... WHILE THEY'RE BUSY.



WE SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM THEM.

THE SPIRAL HAS THEM...



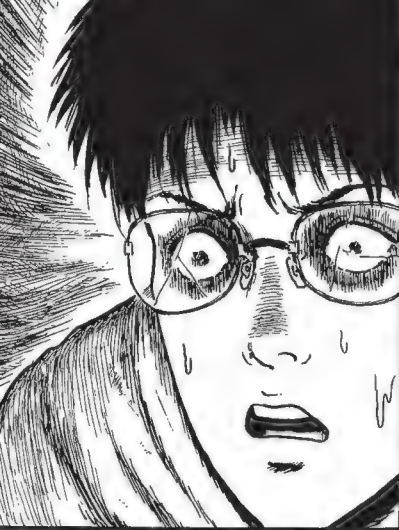
I SAID IT WAS USE-LESS...

IT'S ALL AROUND ...IN US, THROUGH US...



I WONDER WHERE WE ARE?

D-DON'T ASK ME...



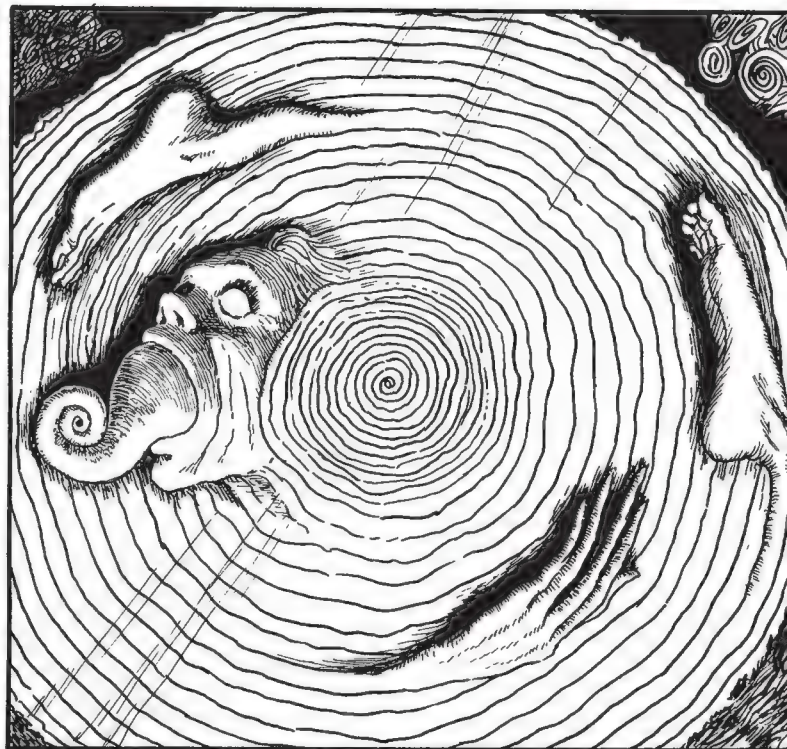
YOU CAN
TELL
NORTH BY
LOOKING
AT A TREE
STUMP.

THAT'S
RIGHT!



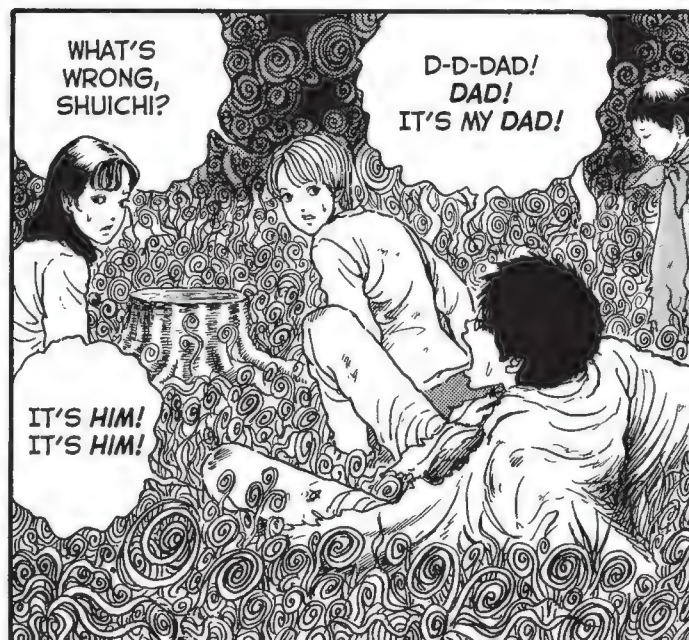
COME
JOIN
ME...

SHUI-
CHI...



UWAAA!

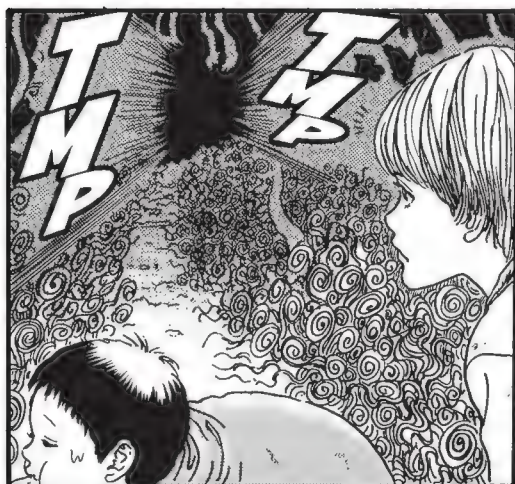
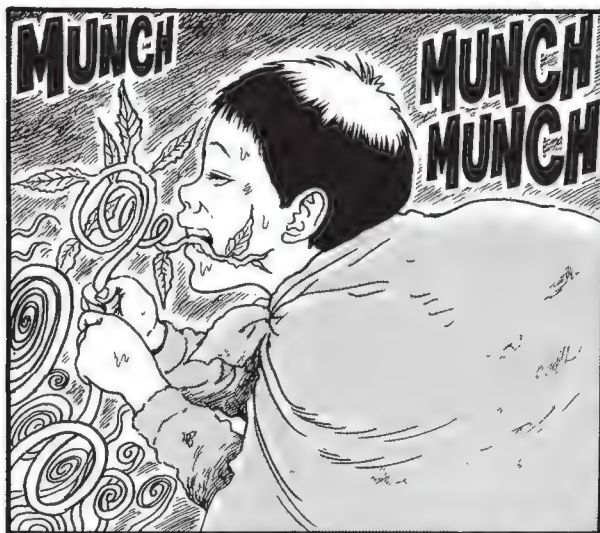
CALM
DOWN.
YOU'RE
JUST
IMAGINING
IT!!

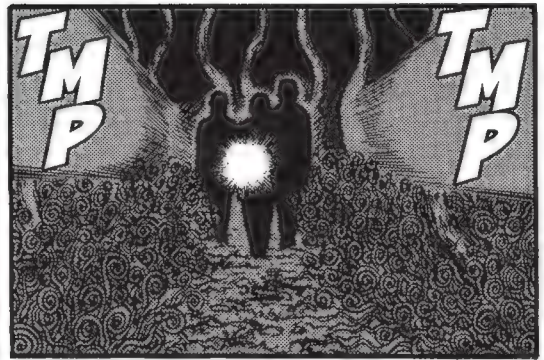
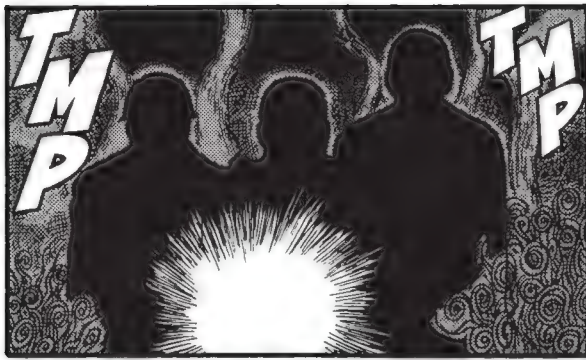


WHAT'S
WRONG,
SHUICHI?

D-D-DAD!
DAD!
IT'S MY DAD!

IT'S HIM!
IT'S HIM!







WE...
WE
JUST
GOT
LOST...

OH...



WHY DID
YOU
LEAVE
US?

WE
MEET
AGAIN.



HEY...



HE
MUST
BE
TIRED,
POOR
KID...

AWW...
THE KID'S
SLEEPING ON
HIS SISTER'S
BACK.
HOW SWEET.



WHAT?

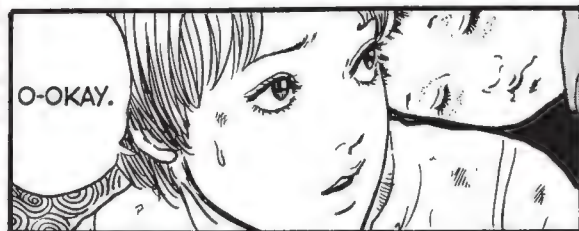
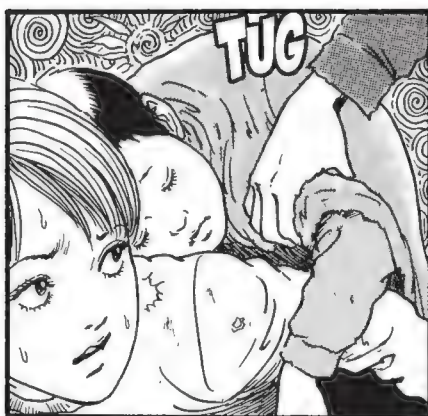


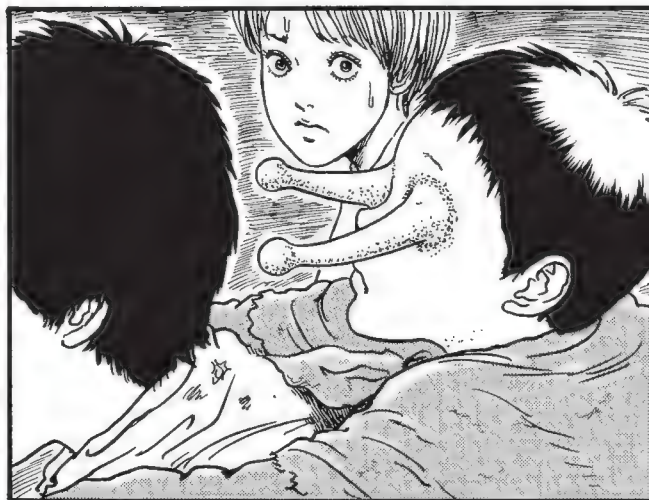
OH...UH...
THAT'S BECAUSE
HE'S CARRYING A
BACKPACK.

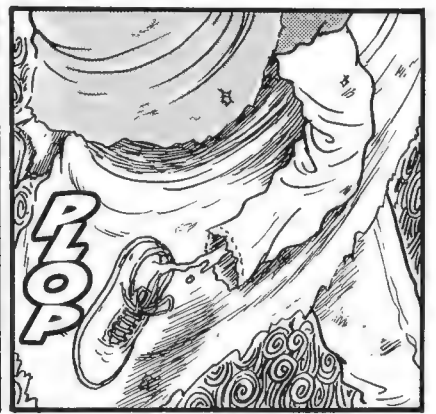


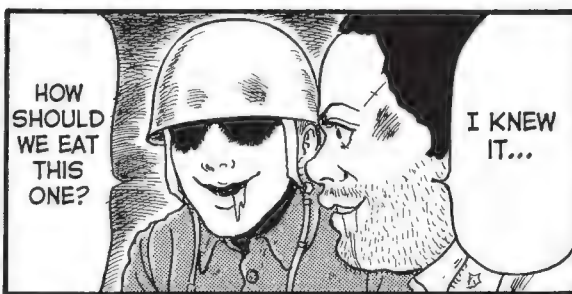
IT LOOKS
SO
SWOLLEN...

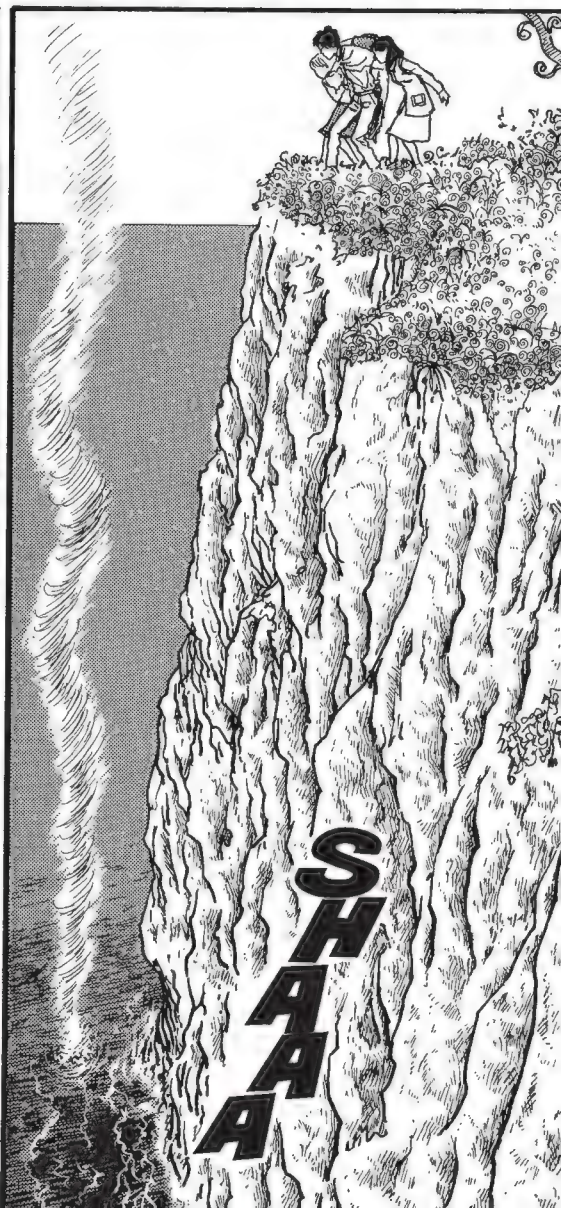
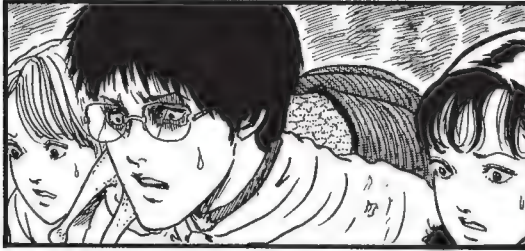
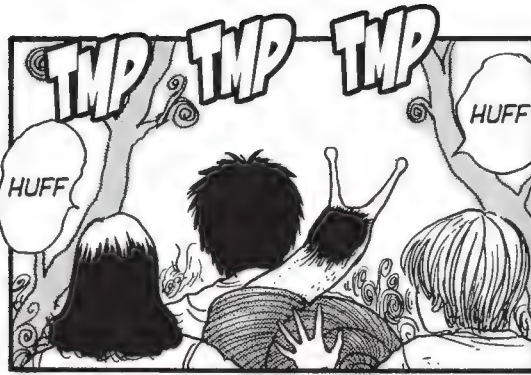
WHAT'S
WITH HIS
BACK?



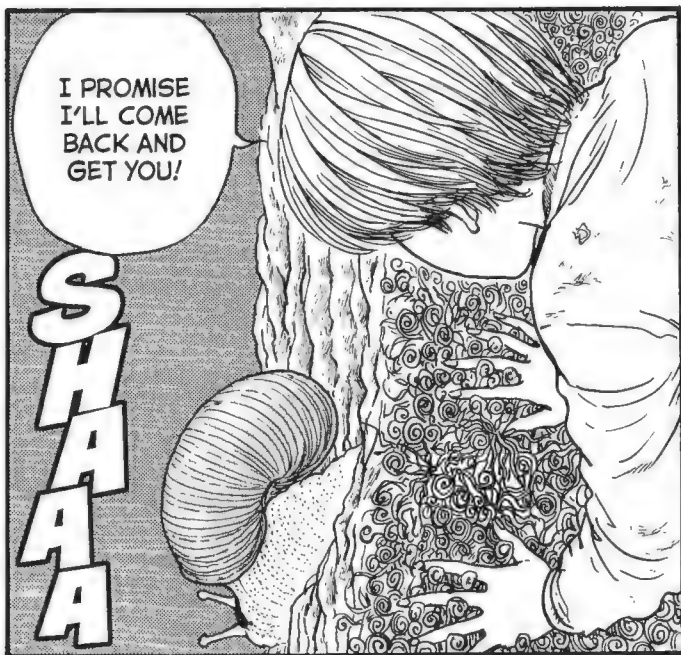














WE'LL
FIND
MITSUO
LATER.

WE HAVE
NO CHOICE.
LET'S KEEP
GOING.

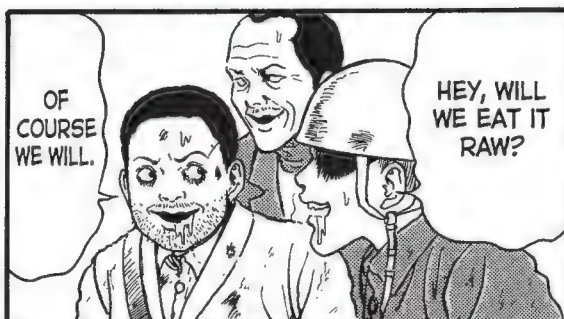


ARE YOU
GOING TO
GO BACK?
HA HA
HA...

HEY,
KUROUZU-
CHO'S
THAT
WAY!

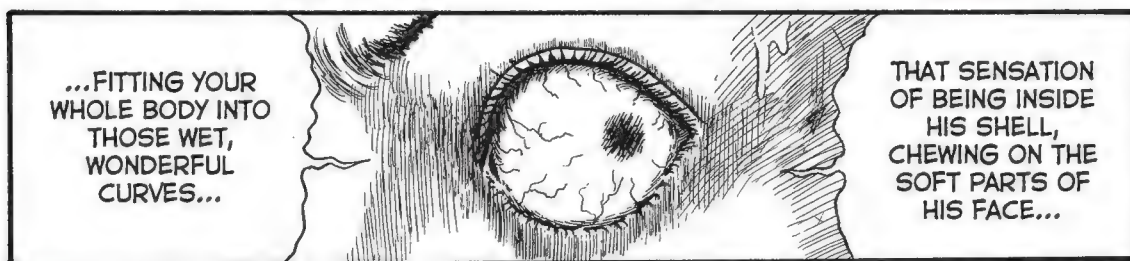


REMEMBER
WHAT
OKAMOTO
TASTED LIKE?



OF
COURSE
WE WILL.

HEY, WILL
WE EAT IT
RAW?

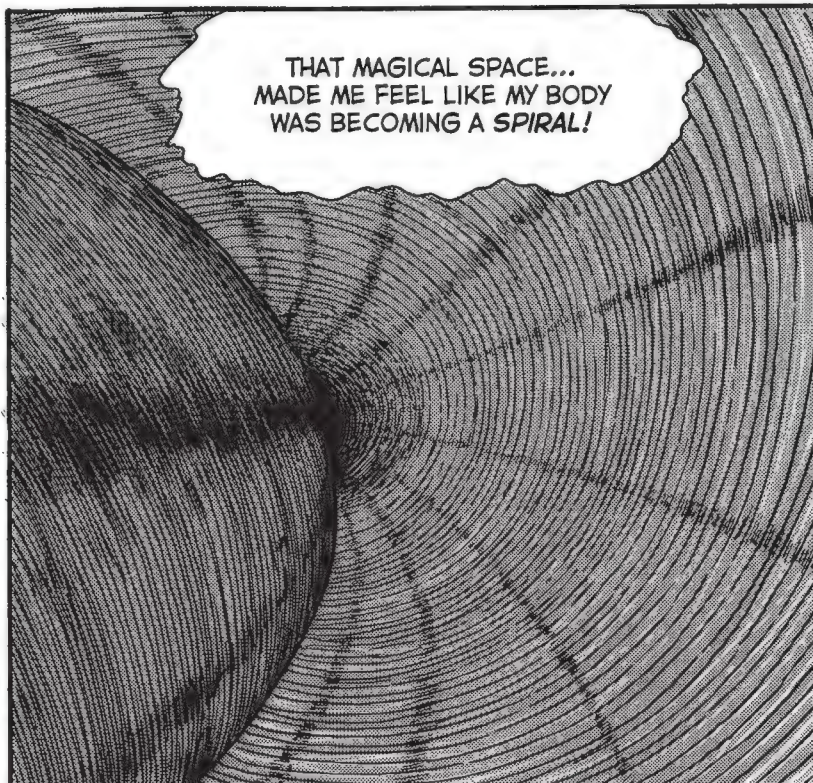


...FITTING YOUR
WHOLE BODY INTO
THOSE WET,
WONDERFUL
CURVES...

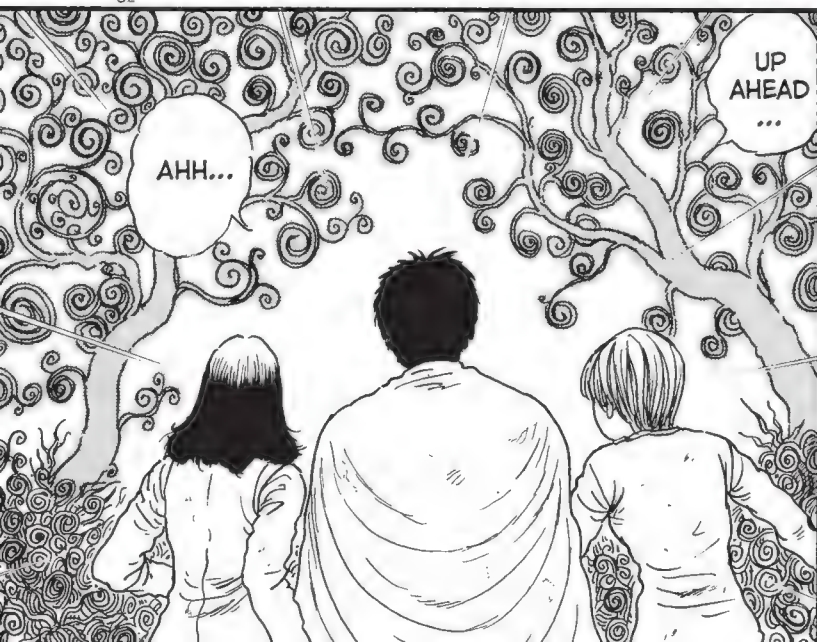
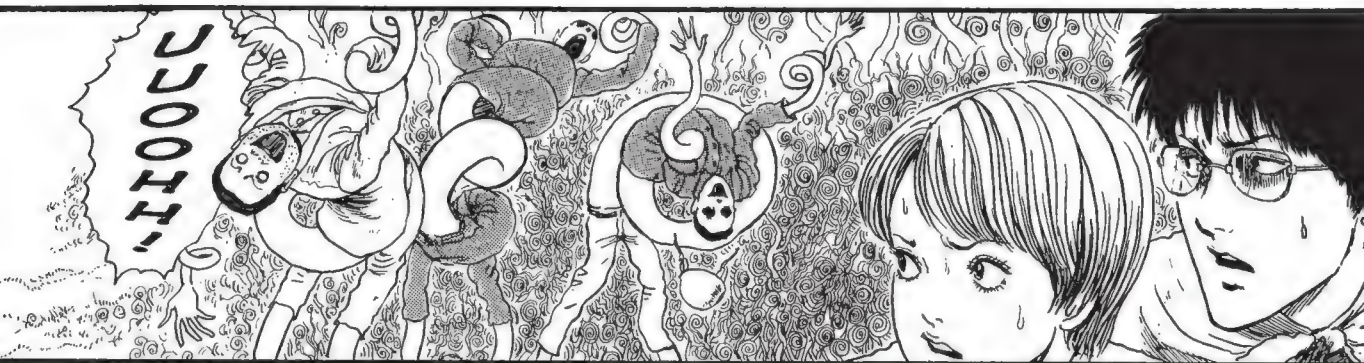
THAT SENSATION
OF BEING INSIDE
HIS SHELL,
CHEWING ON THE
SOFT PARTS OF
HIS FACE...

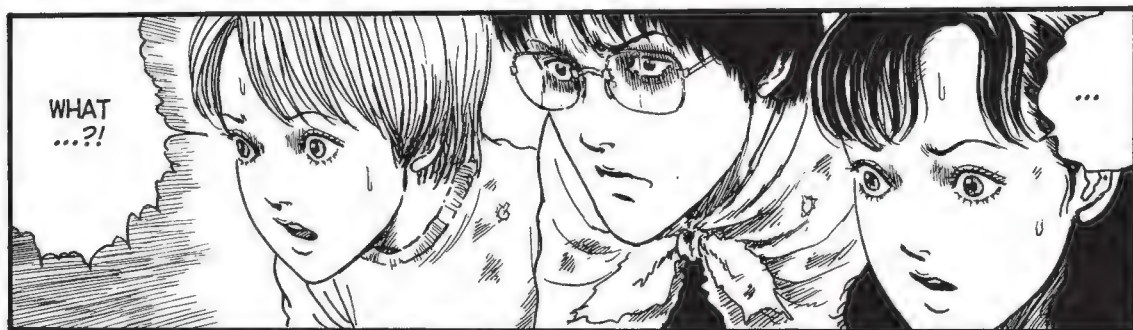
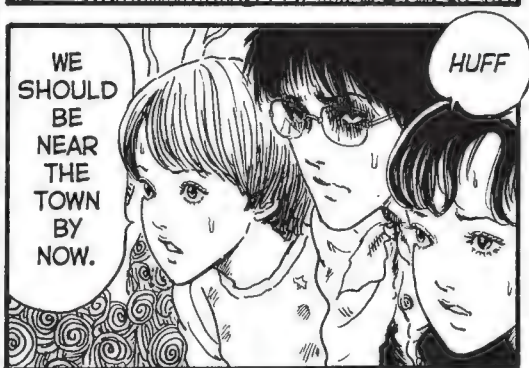
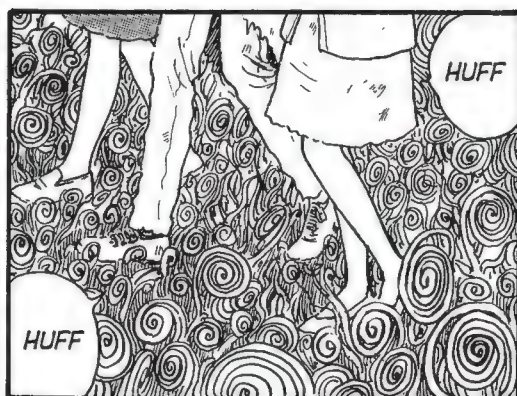


JUST
THINKING
ABOUT IT
MAKES ME
FEEL LIKE
I'M GOING
TO...



THAT MAGICAL SPACE...
MADE ME FEEL LIKE MY BODY
WAS BECOMING A SPIRAL!





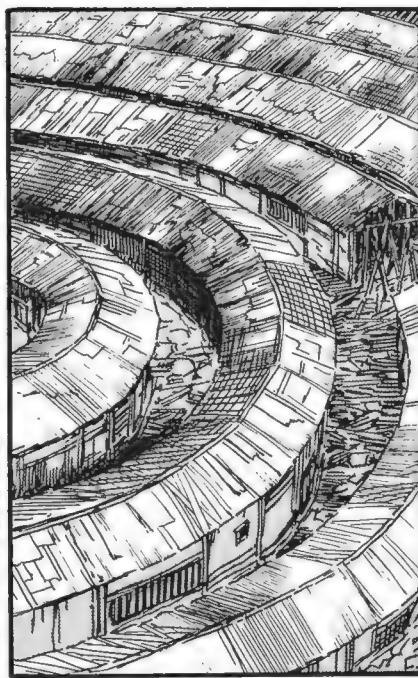
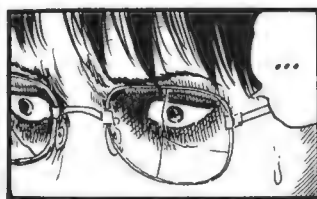
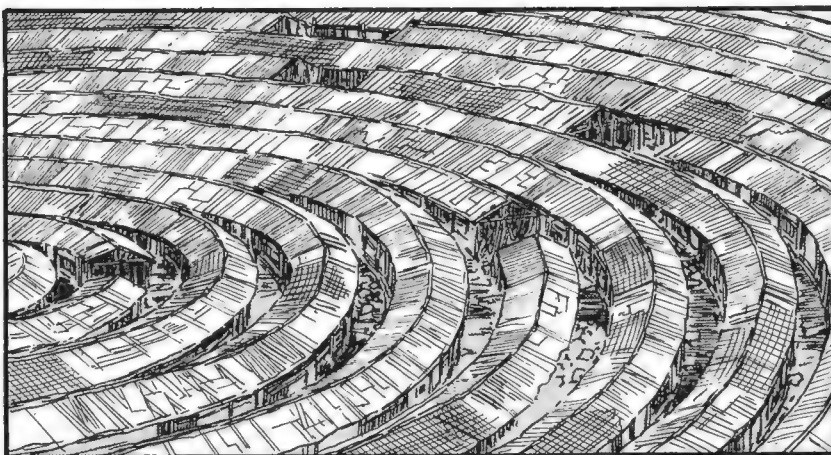


CHAPTER

18

THE
LABYRINTH







LET'S...
LET'S GO
DOWN AND
SEE.

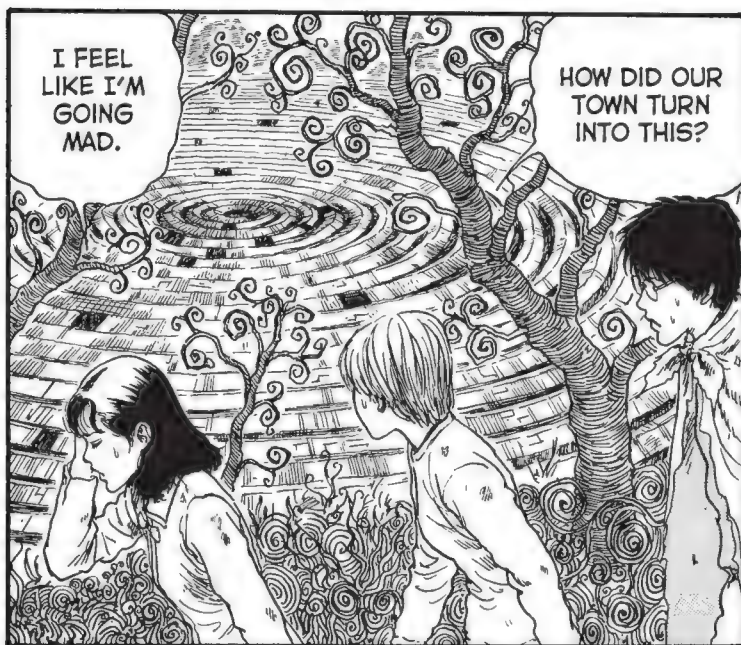


B-BUT
HOW?!



THAT'S ALL THE
ROW HOUSES,
EXTENDED AND
JOINED
TOGETHER.

THAT'S
THE ROW
HOUSE?!



I FEEL
LIKE I'M
GOING
MAD.

HOW DID OUR
TOWN TURN
INTO THIS?



HUFF

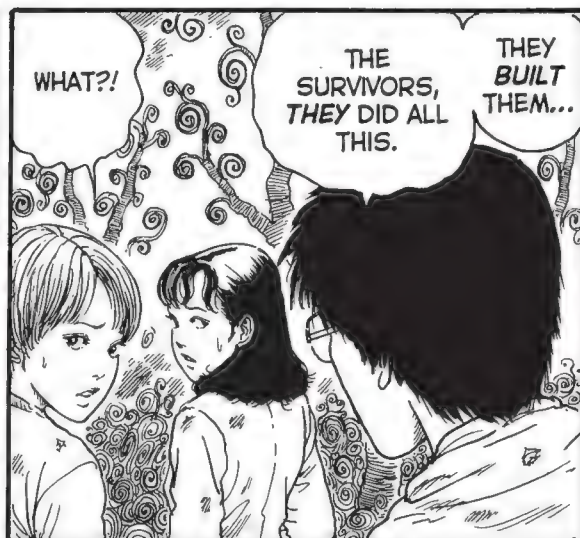
HUFF

SHF
SHF



BUILDING
THEM OUT ON
BOTH SIDES
RESULTED
IN THEM
CONNECTING
UP LIKE THIS.

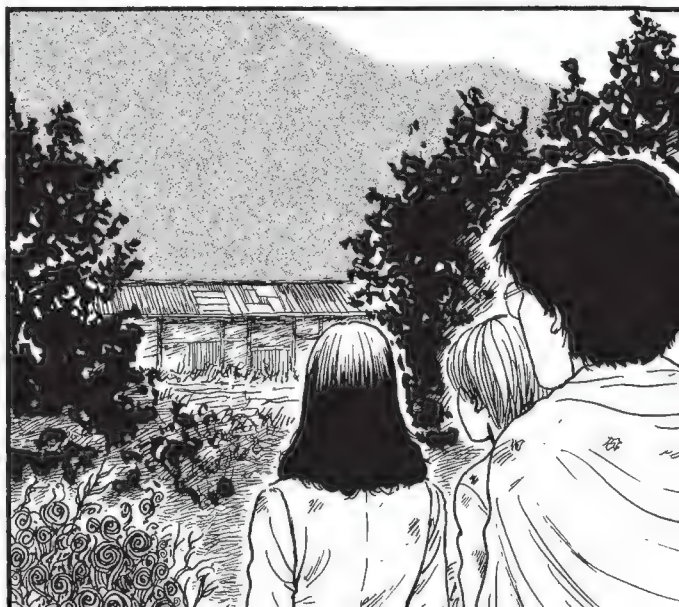
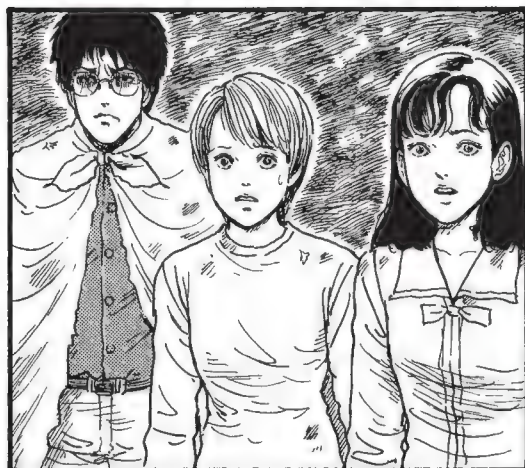
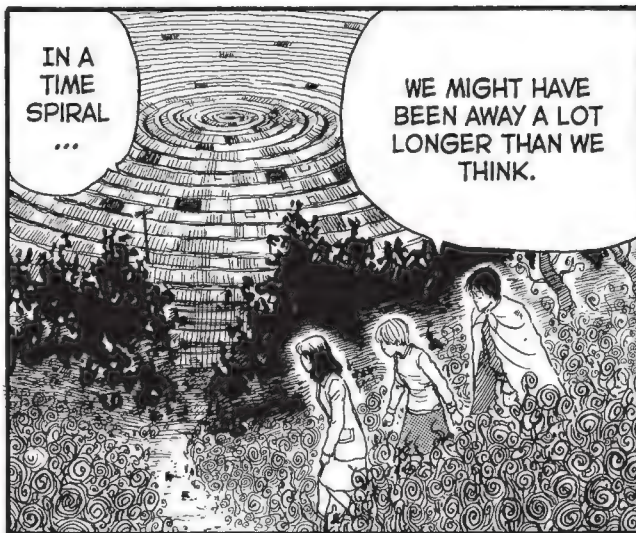
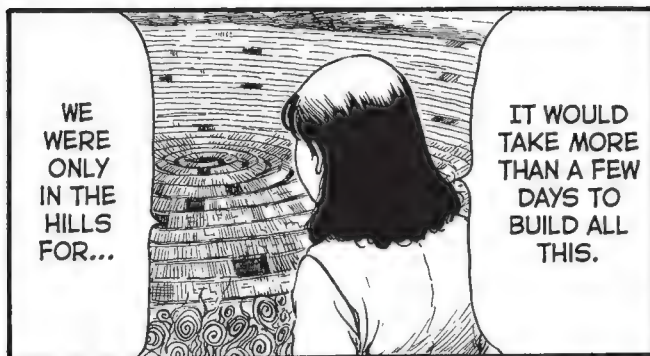
REMEMBER
HOW PEOPLE
ALL OVER TOWN
WERE
EXPANDING THE
ROW HOUSES?



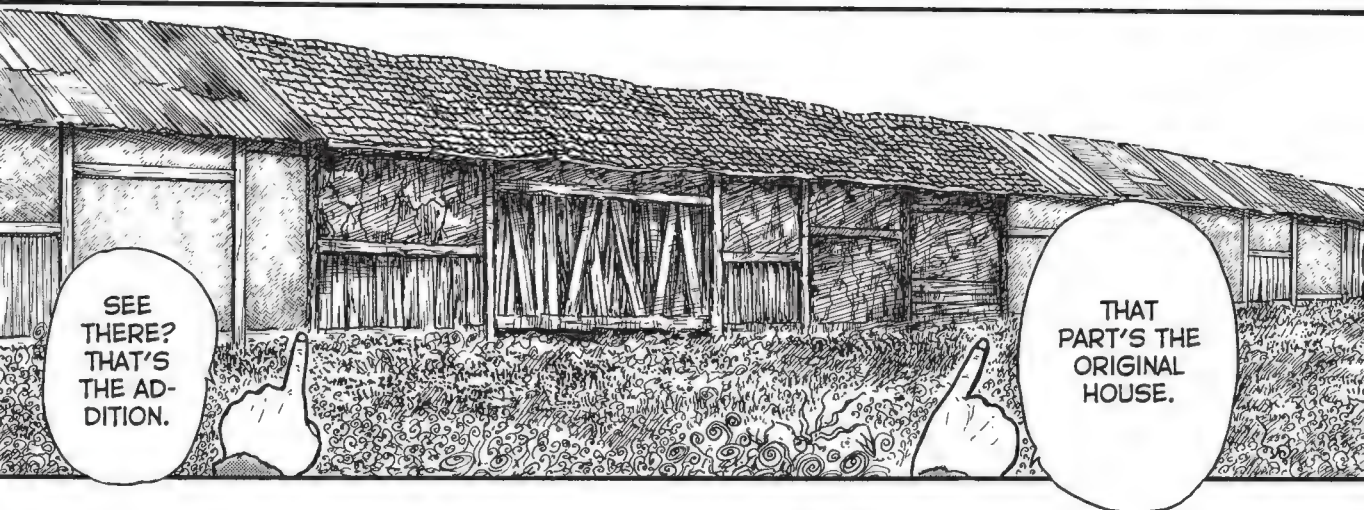
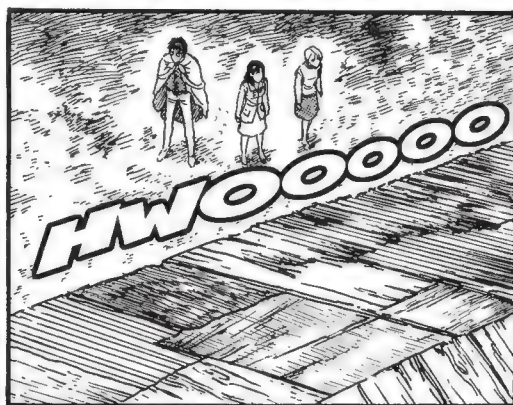
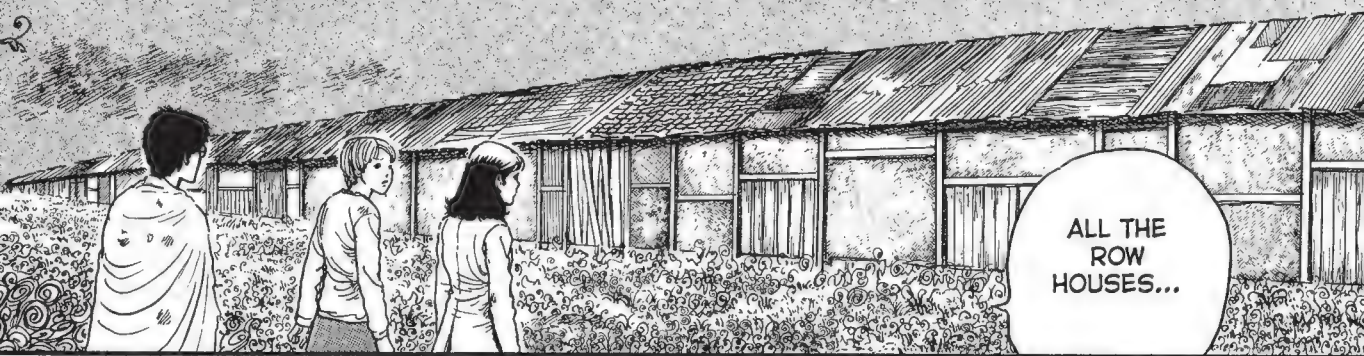
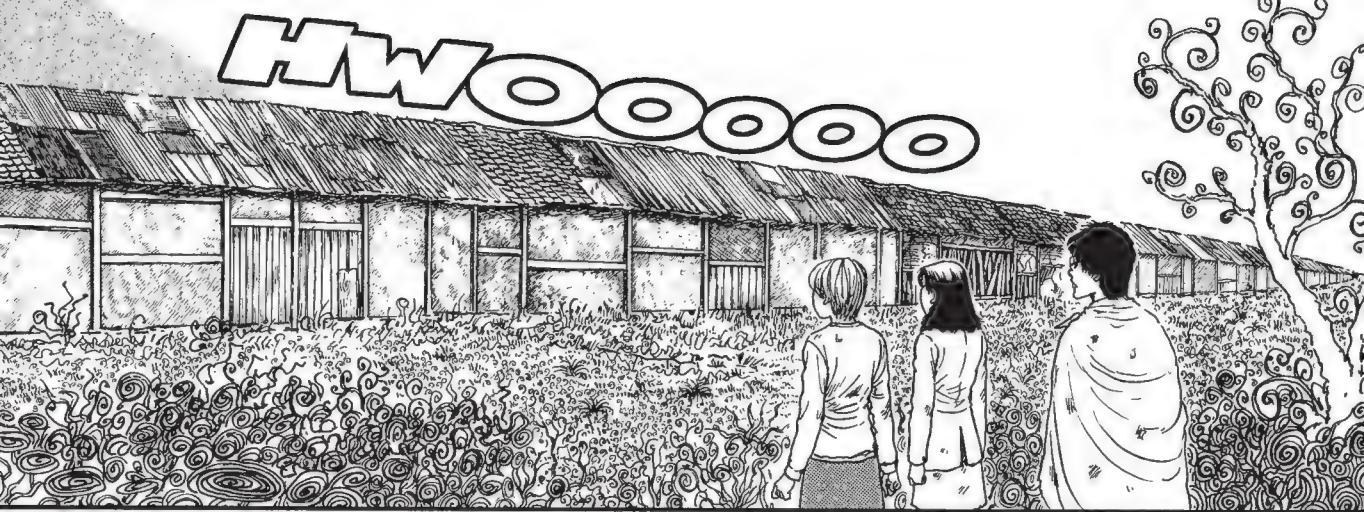
WHAT?!

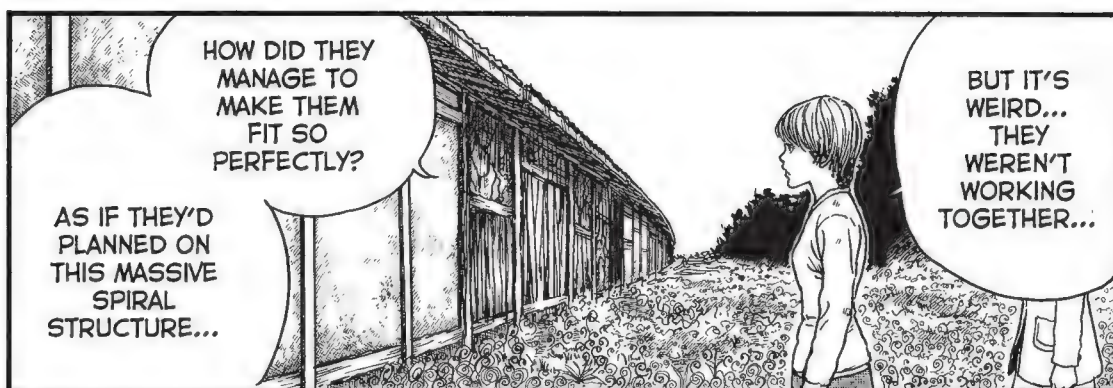
THE
SURVIVORS,
THEY DID ALL
THIS.

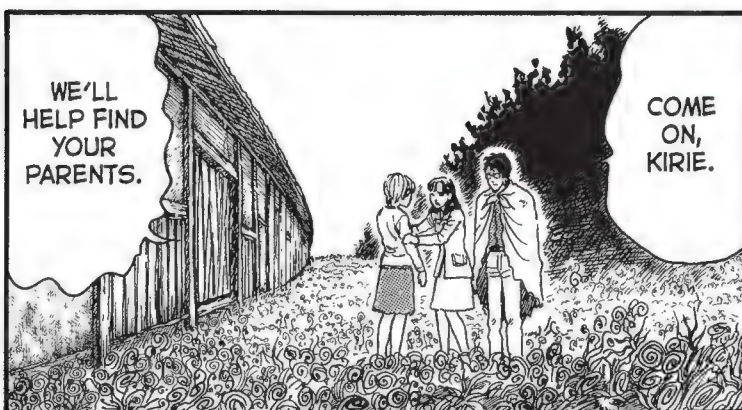
THEY
BUILT
THEM...



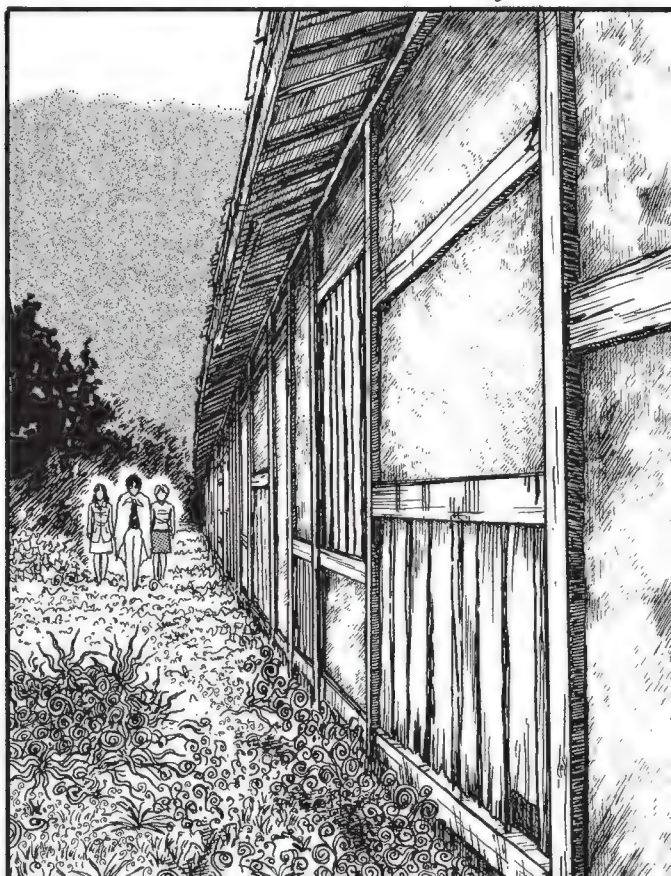
HWOooooo





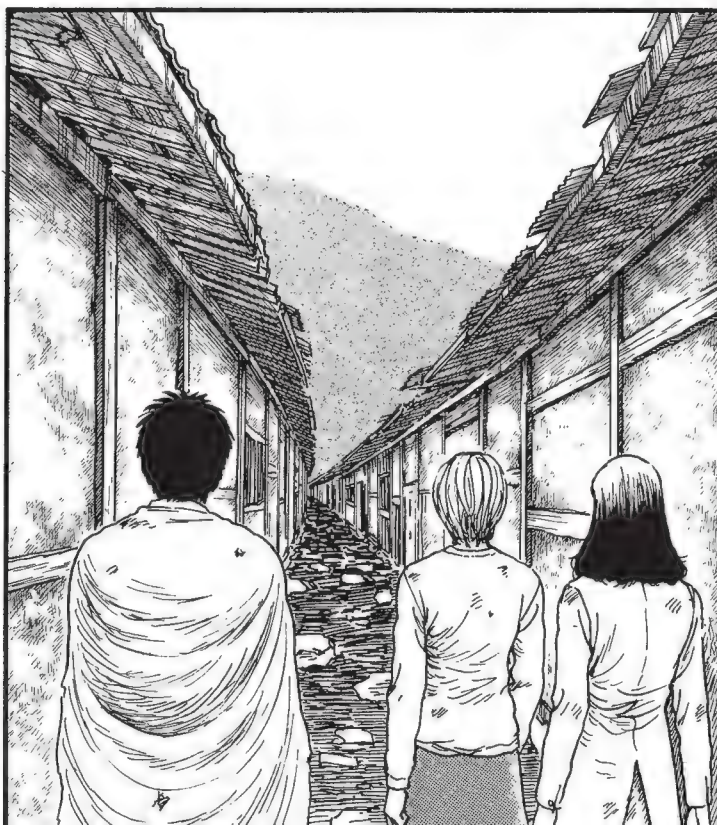
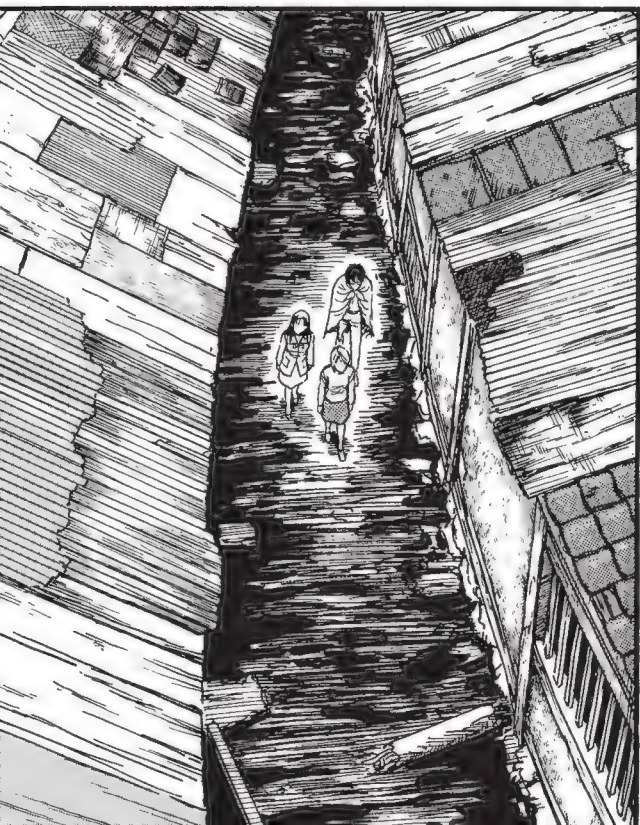
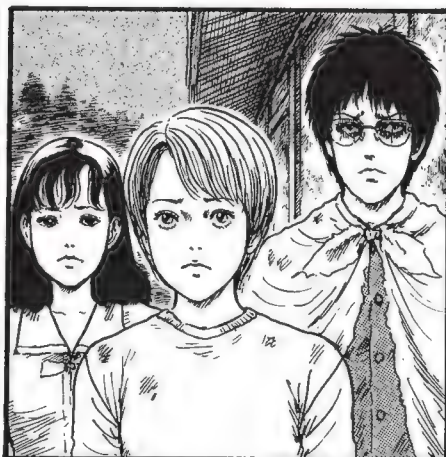


9



...WE
FOUND
THE WAY
INTO THE
ALLEY.

WE WALKED
FURTHER, AND
AT LAST...





THIS
IS
ODD...



I CAN
HARDLY
THINK
STRAIGHT
ANY-
MORE...

IT
MAKES
ME
DIZZY
...



WHY IS
THAT?

YOU'RE
RIGHT.



WHIFF

I MOVE MY
ARM, AND NO
TWISTERS!

IT'S BEEN
LIKE THIS
SINCE WE
ENTERED
THE ALLEY.



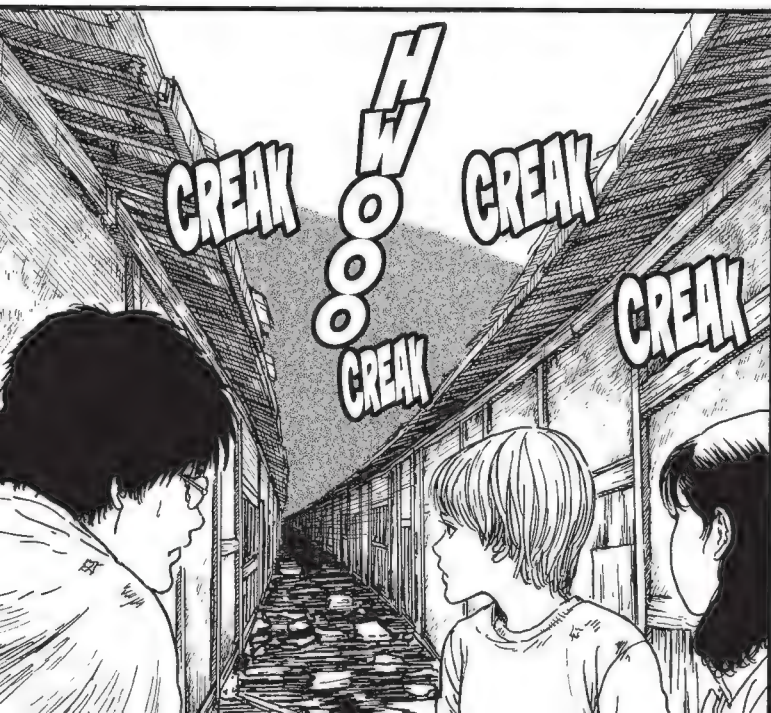
KIRIE, THINK
OF WHERE
WE ARE...

SAFE?



MAYBE
BECAUSE WE'RE
SURROUNDED BY
THE ROW
HOUSES.

THEN
WE'RE
SAFE IN
HERE?

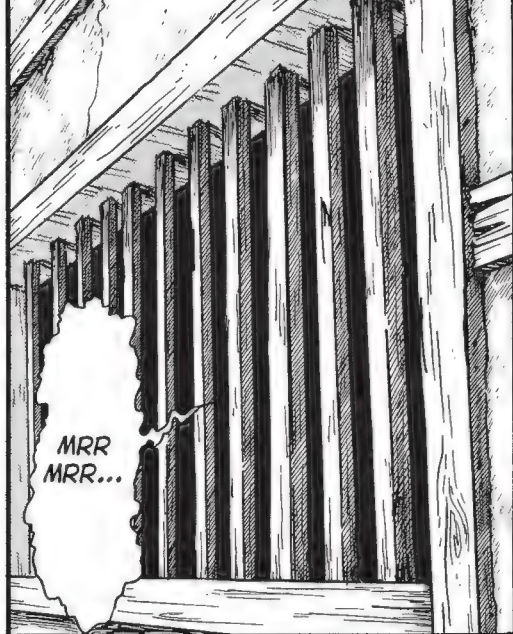


CREAK

H W
OOO
CREAK

CREAK

CREAK



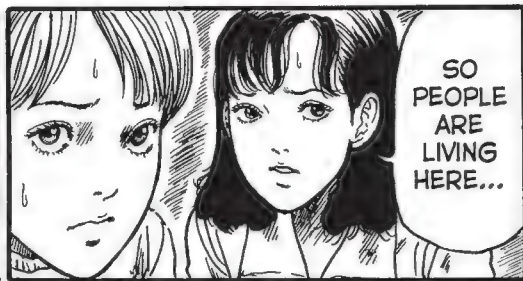
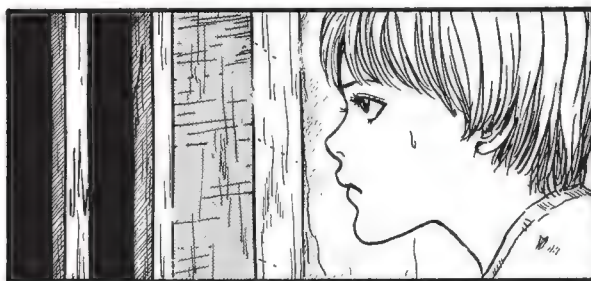
MRR
MRR...



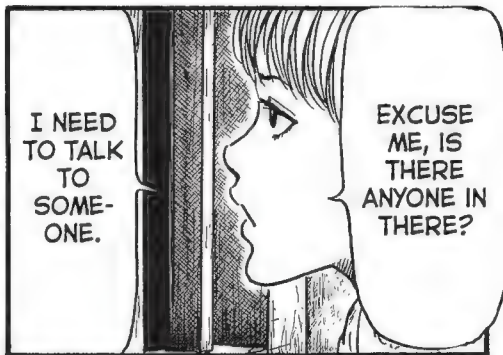
MURMUR MURMUR...

MUMBLE
MUMBLE...

CREAK



SO
PEOPLE
ARE
LIVING
HERE...



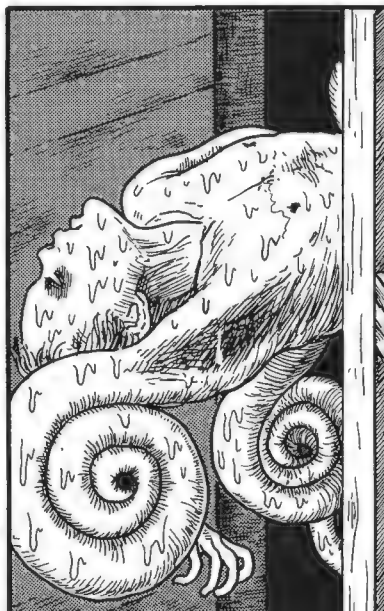
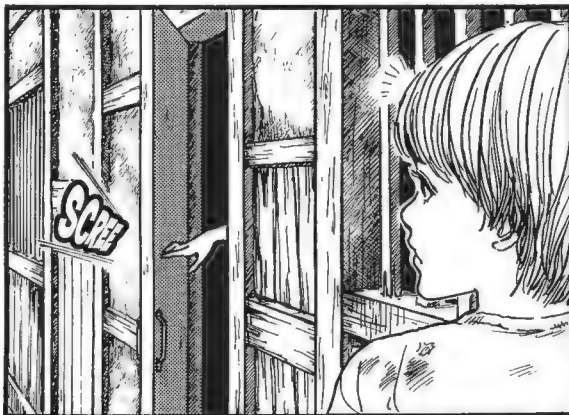
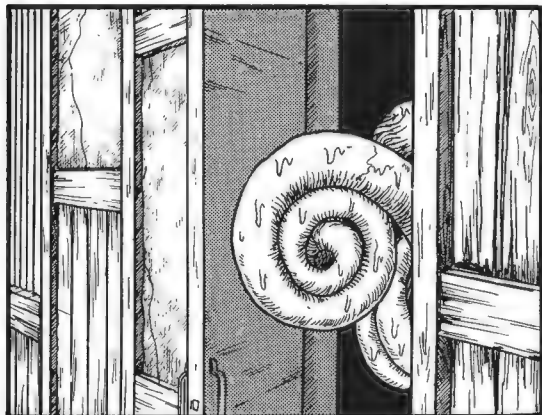
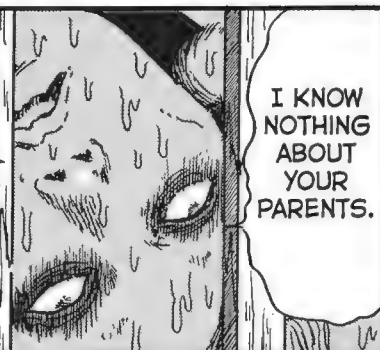
I NEED
TO TALK
TO SOME-
ONE.

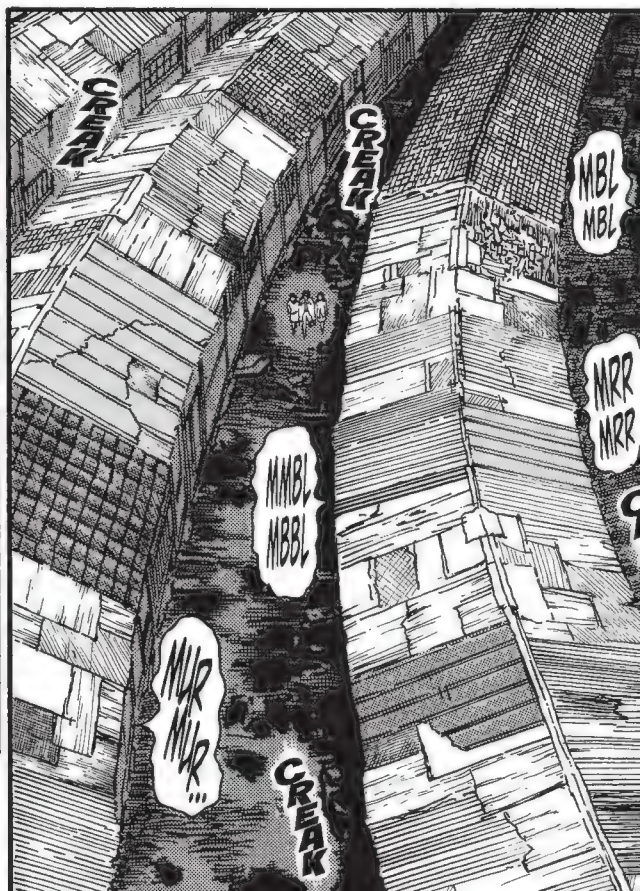
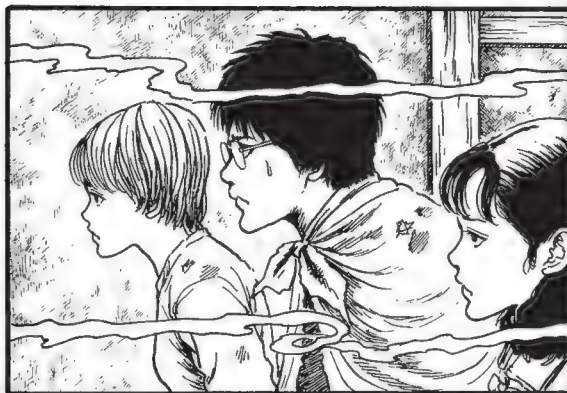
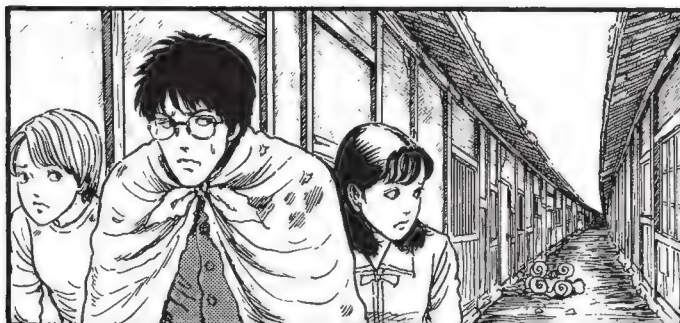
EXCUSE
ME, IS
THERE
ANYONE IN
THERE?

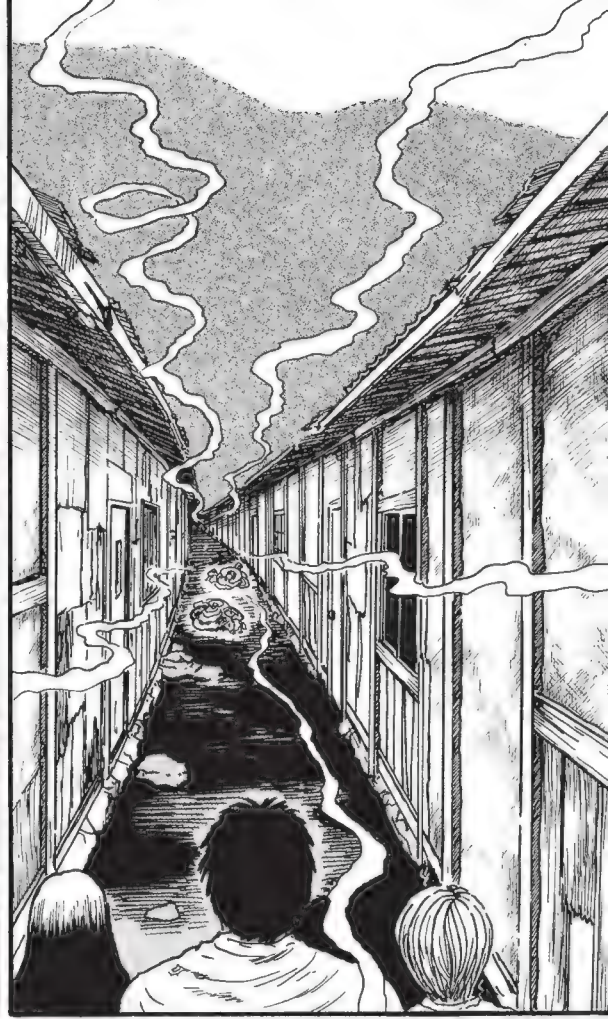


MY
FATHER'S
NAME IS
YASUO
GOSHIMA.
HE'S A
POTTER.

I'M LOOKING
FOR MY
PARENTS.







THEY'VE
BEEN
HERE A
WHILE.

MORE
CORP-
SES...
DECAY-
ING...



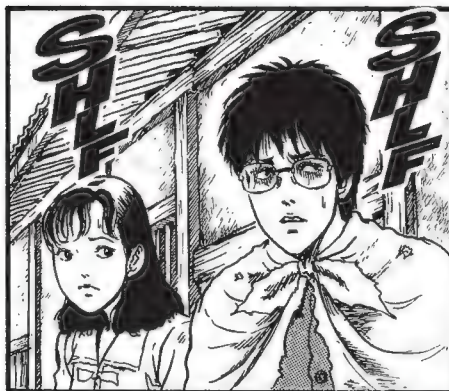
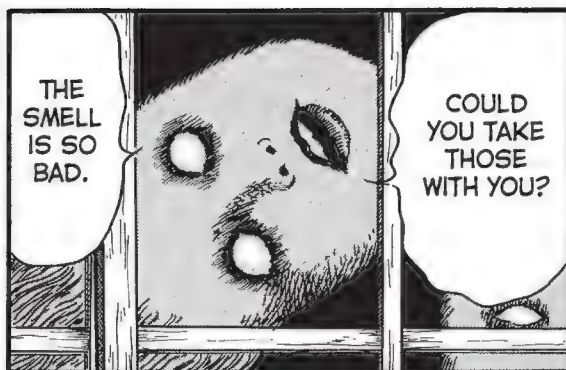
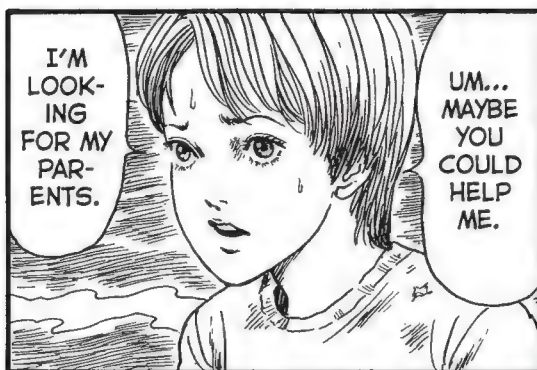
YOU
THERE
...

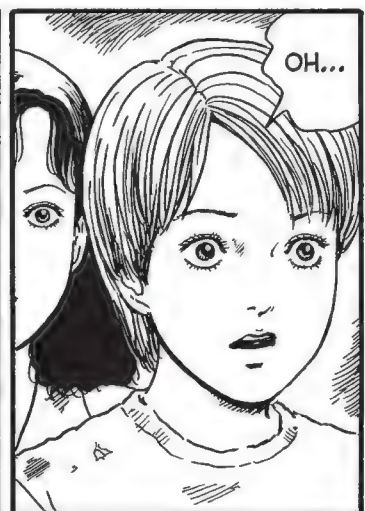
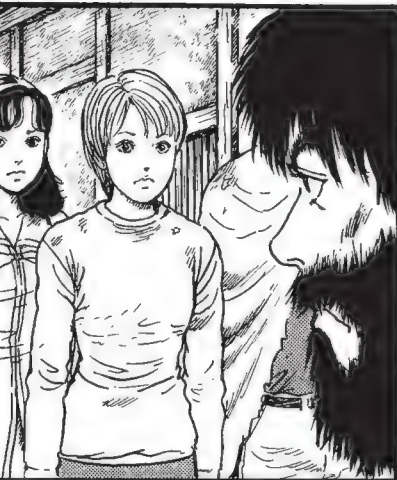
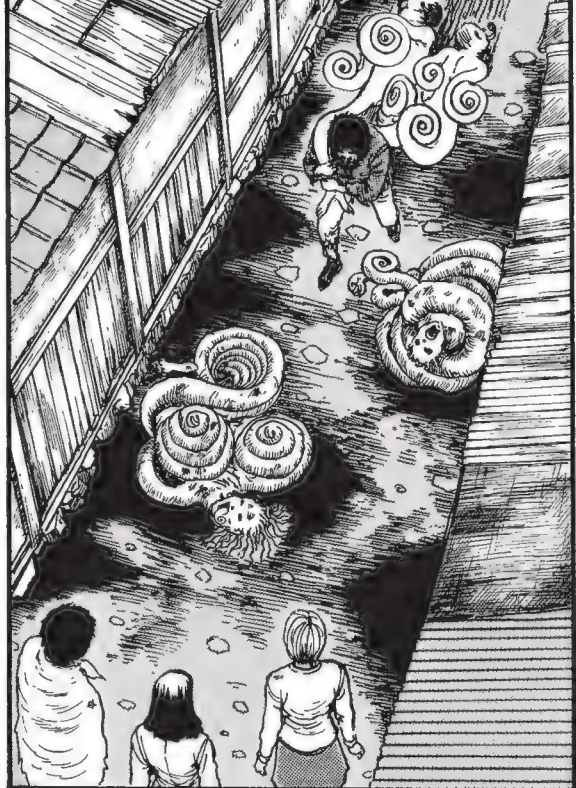
SAY
...

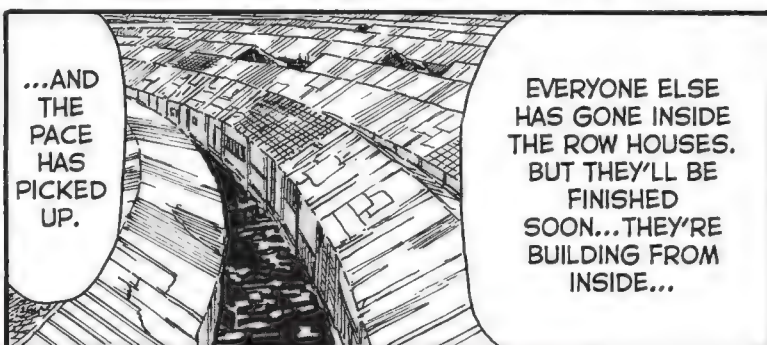


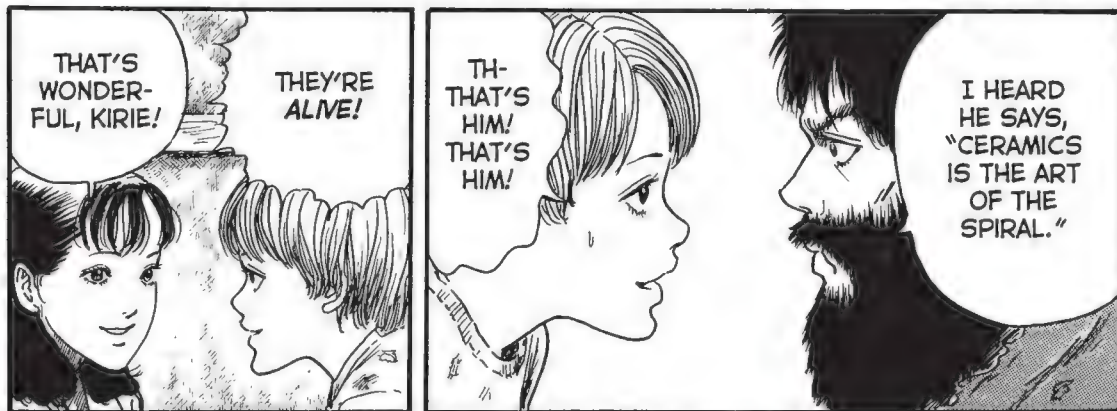
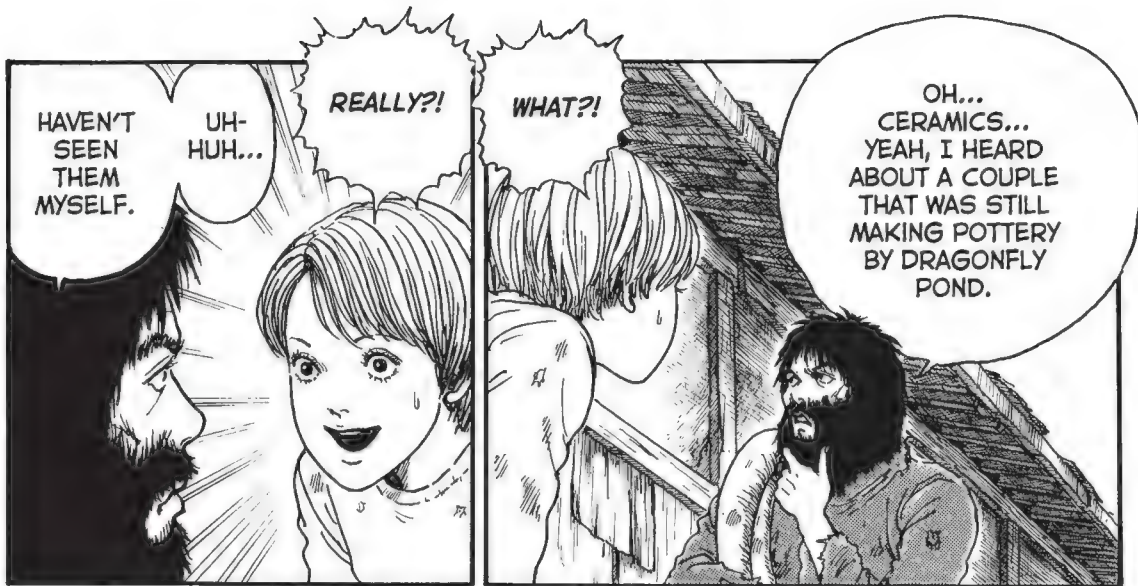
THEY TURNED
INTO SPIRALS
AND DIED...











AND
...

...THE
FURTHER
WE WENT,
THE MORE
AREAS WE
SAW UNDER
CONSTRUCTION.

AS MR.
TANIZAKI
SAID...

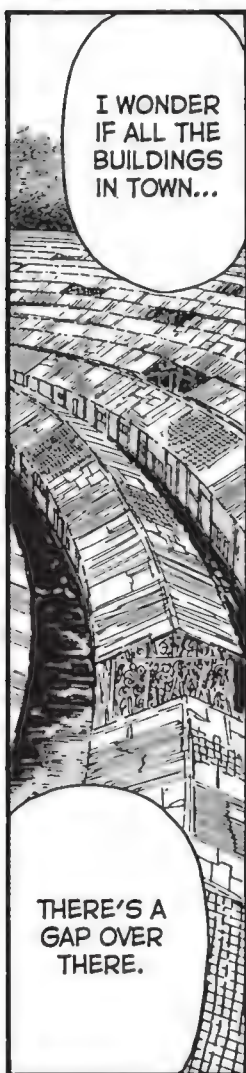
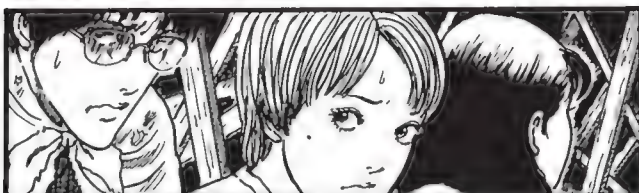
...TO MAKE OUR
WAY THROUGH
THE LABYRINTH.

...WE FOUND OUR WAY BLOCKED
BY HEAPS OF RUBBLE WE WERE
TOO TIRED TO CLIMB.
WE'D GO THROUGH GAPS...

THERE'S
A GAP
OVER
THERE.

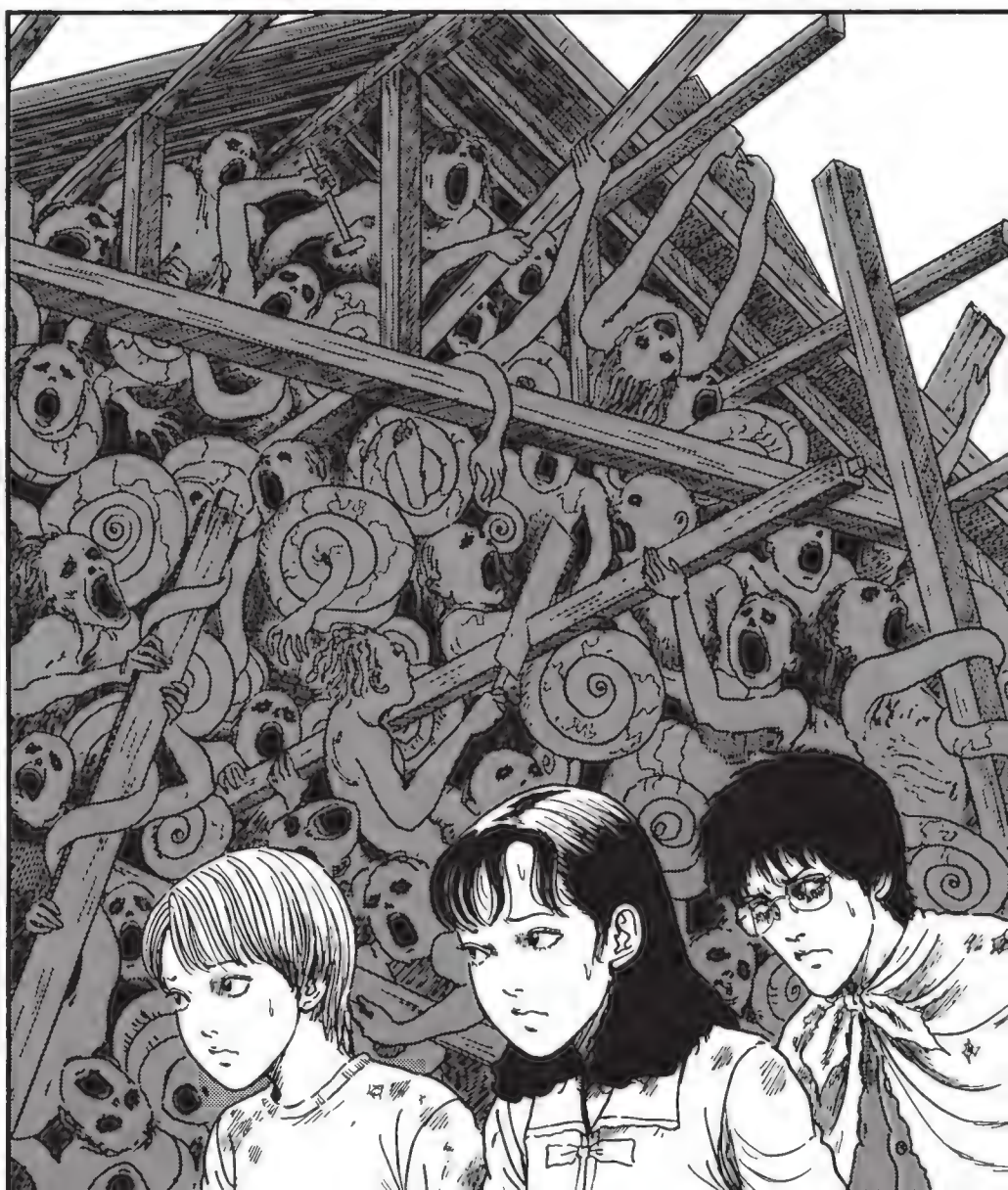
I WONDER
WHERE WE
ARE?

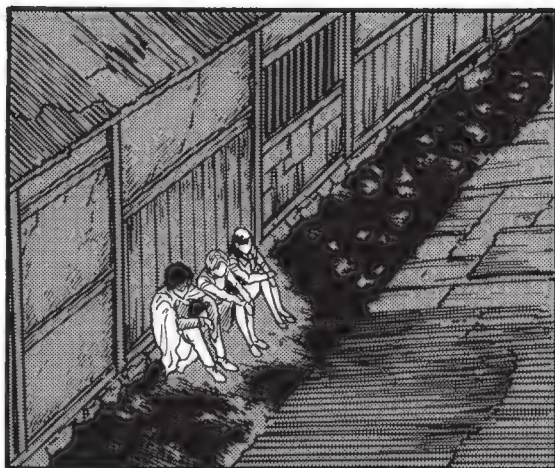
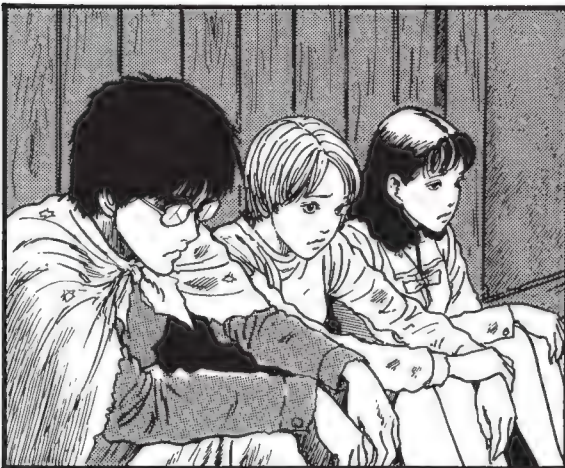
ANOTHER
DEAD
END.



I WONDER
IF ALL THE
BUILDINGS
IN TOWN...

THERE'S A
GAP OVER
THERE.





MAYBE...



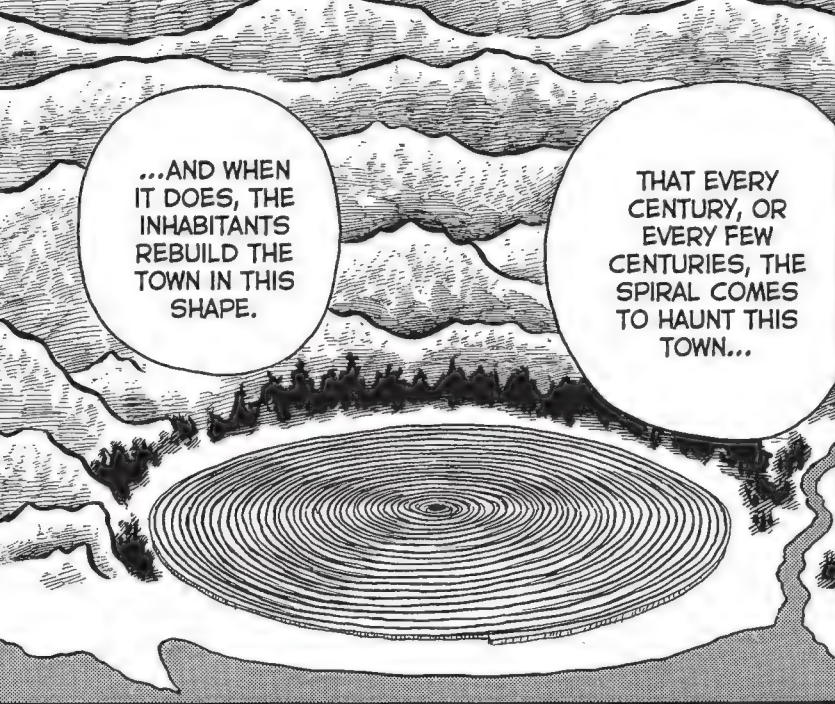
WELL,
WHATEVER'S
URGING
PEOPLE TO
BUILD THESE
HOUSES...

...MUST
BE EX-
TREMELY
POWER-
FUL.



...WHY WAS
IT ONCE
LIKE THIS?

IF SHUICHI IS
RIGHT, THAT
THIS IS BASED
ON THE TOWN'S
PAST...



...AND WHEN IT DOES, THE INHABITANTS REBUILD THE TOWN IN THIS SHAPE.

THAT EVERY CENTURY, OR EVERY FEW CENTURIES, THE SPIRAL COMES TO HAUNT THIS TOWN...

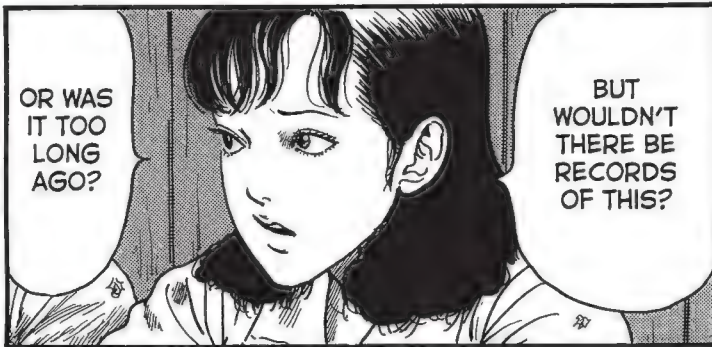


...MAYBE IT'S HAPPENED OVER AND OVER SINCE ANCIENT TIMES.

WHAT?



NO...

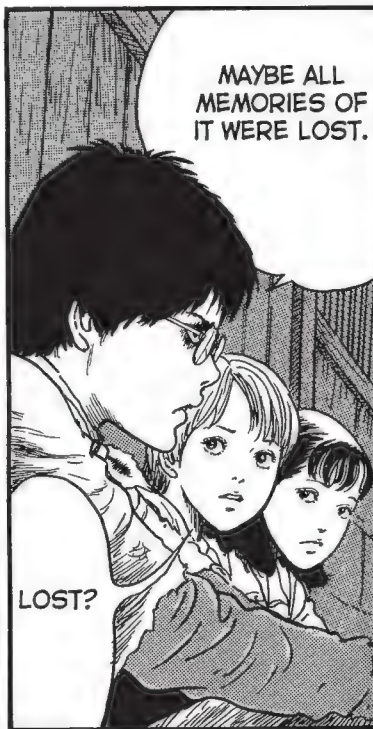


OR WAS IT TOO LONG AGO?

BUT WOULDN'T THERE BE RECORDS OF THIS?



IT COULD BE THAT EVERY PERSON WHO COULD HAVE TOLD THE STORY VANISHED.



MAYBE ALL MEMORIES OF IT WERE LOST.

LOST?



AND YET... THE STORY WAS NEVER PASSED ON.

...THE ROW HOUSES ARE MADE OF WOOD SO THEY CAN'T BE THAT OLD.



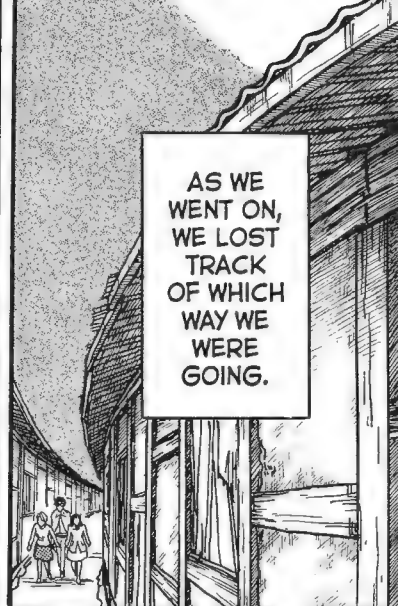
LOOK UP THERE.

HEY.



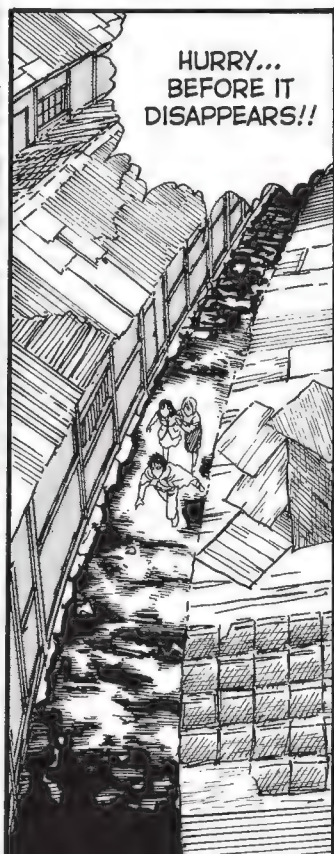
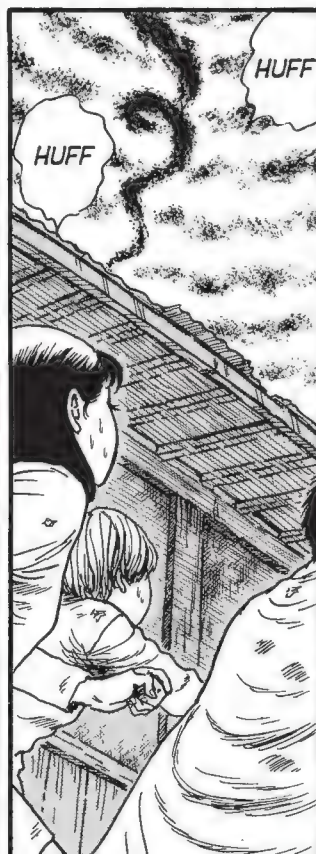
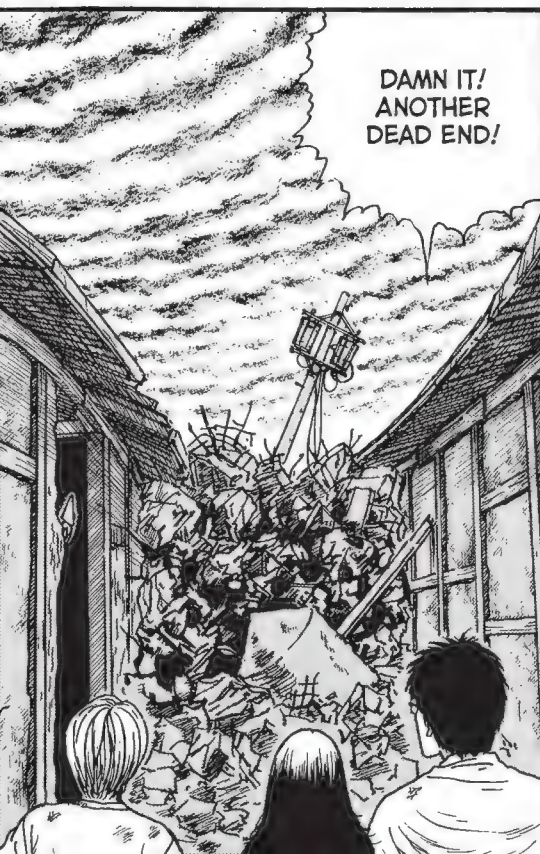
I CAN'T GO ON... I CAN'T WALK...

WHERE ARE WE NOW?



AS WE WENT ON, WE LOST TRACK OF WHICH WAY WE WERE GOING.



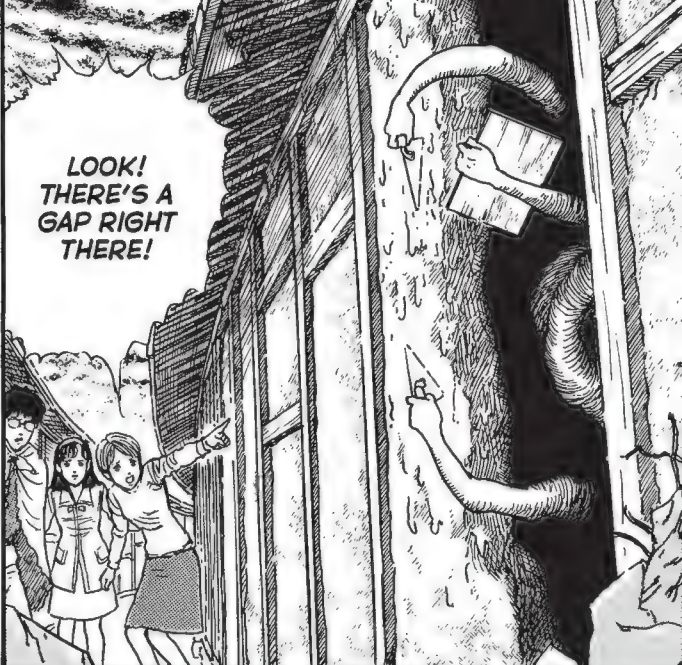




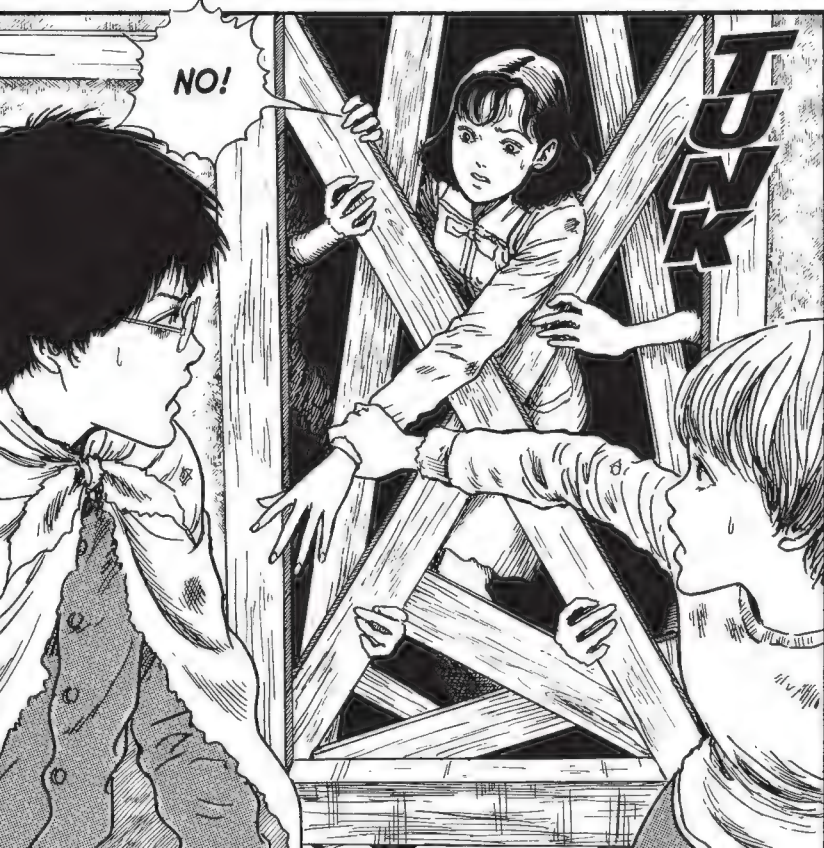
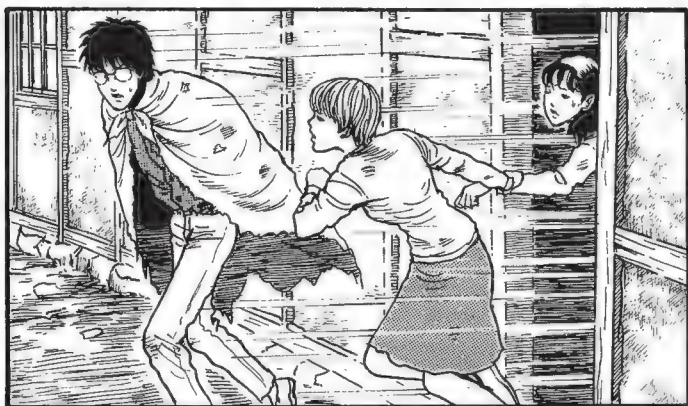
COME ON!

HURRY, OR THIS WAY WILL BE SEALED!

OKAY!



LOOK!
THERE'S A
GAP RIGHT
THERE!



NO!

TUNK



SZZ BAM
SZZ BAM



CHIE!



CHIE!



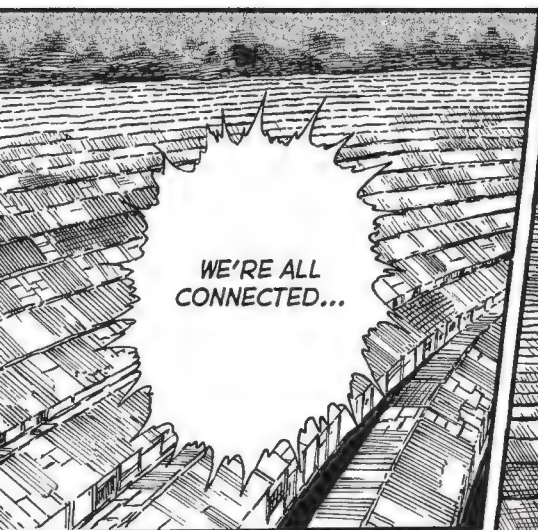
CHIE?!



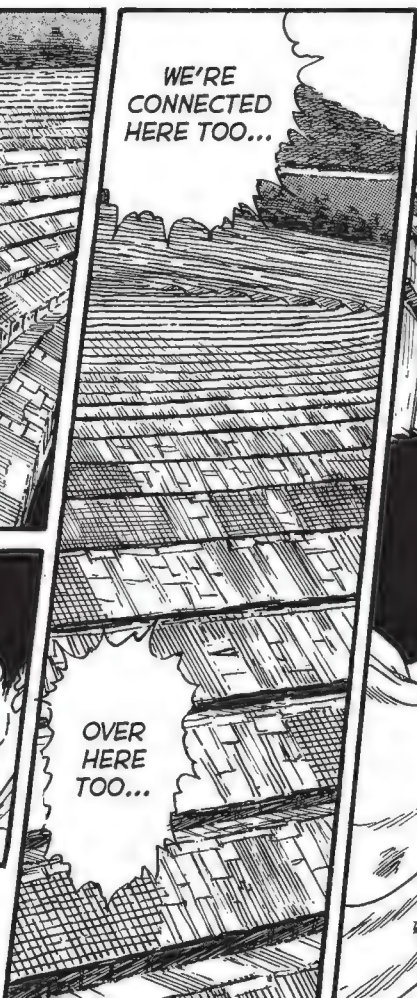
BANG



KIRIE...



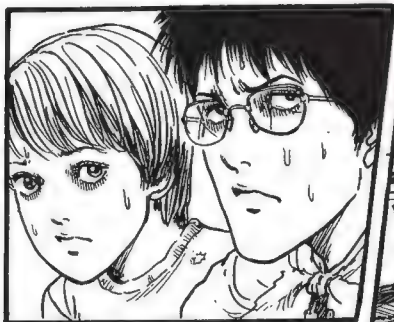
WE'RE ALL
CONNECTED...



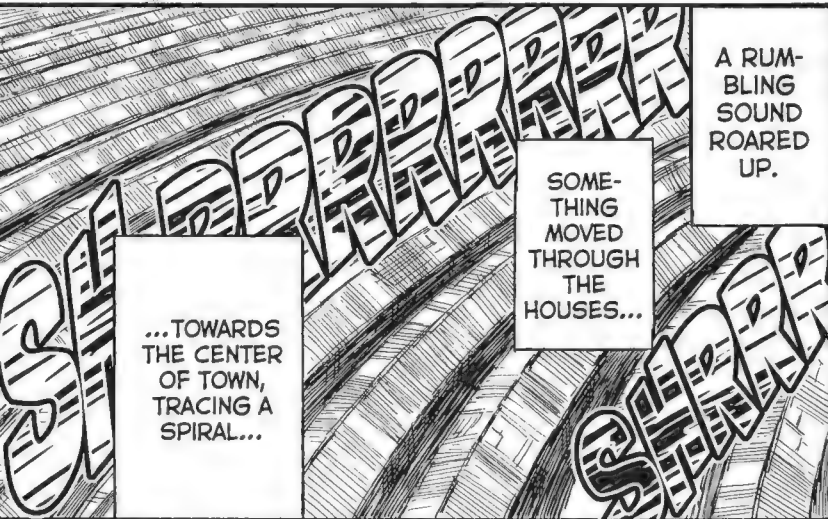
WE'RE
CONNECTED
HERE TOO...



WE'RE
CONNECTED...



OVER
HERE
TOO...



...TOWARDS
THE CENTER
OF TOWN,
TRACING A
SPIRAL...

SOME-
THING
MOVED
THROUGH
THE
HOUSES...

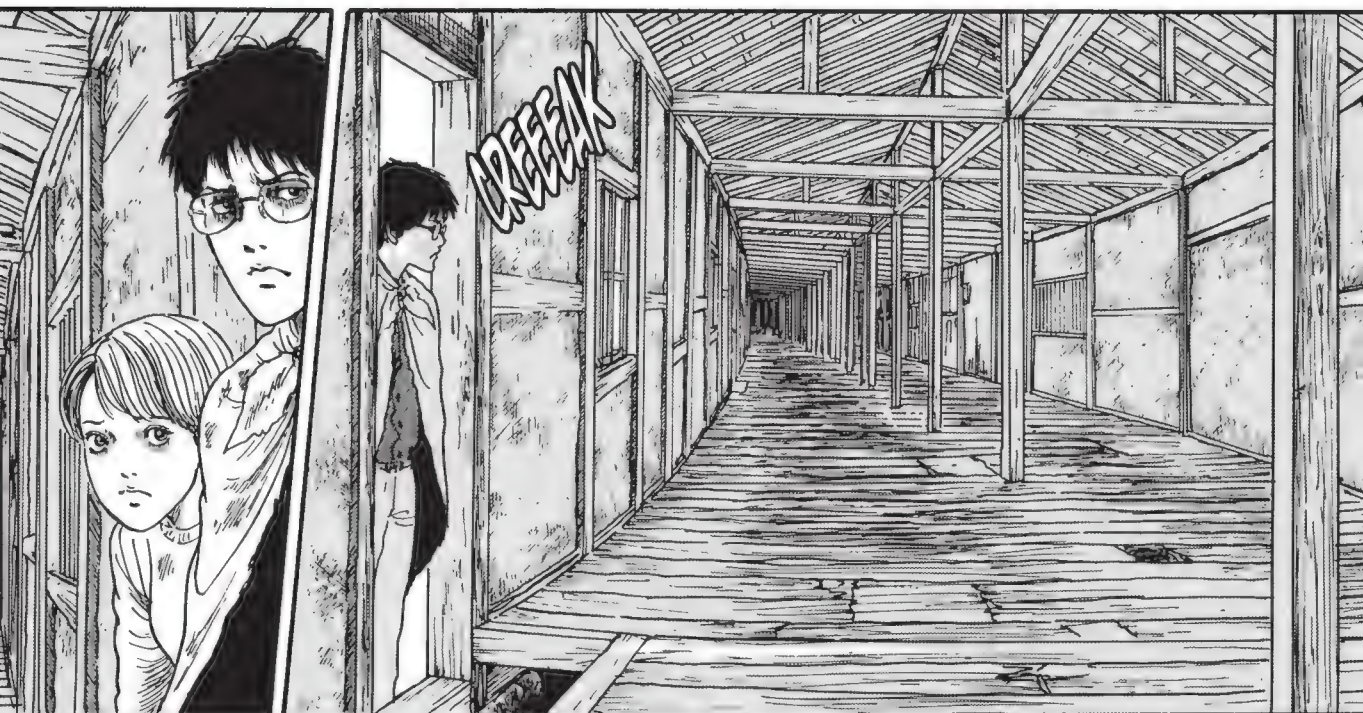
A RUM-
BLING
SOUND
ROARED
UP.



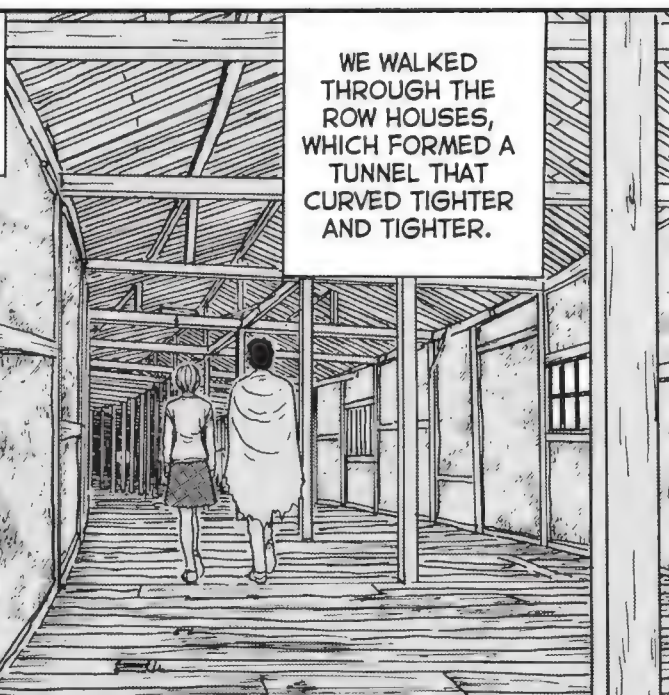
THE ENTIRE
AREA WAS
DEAD
SILENT.

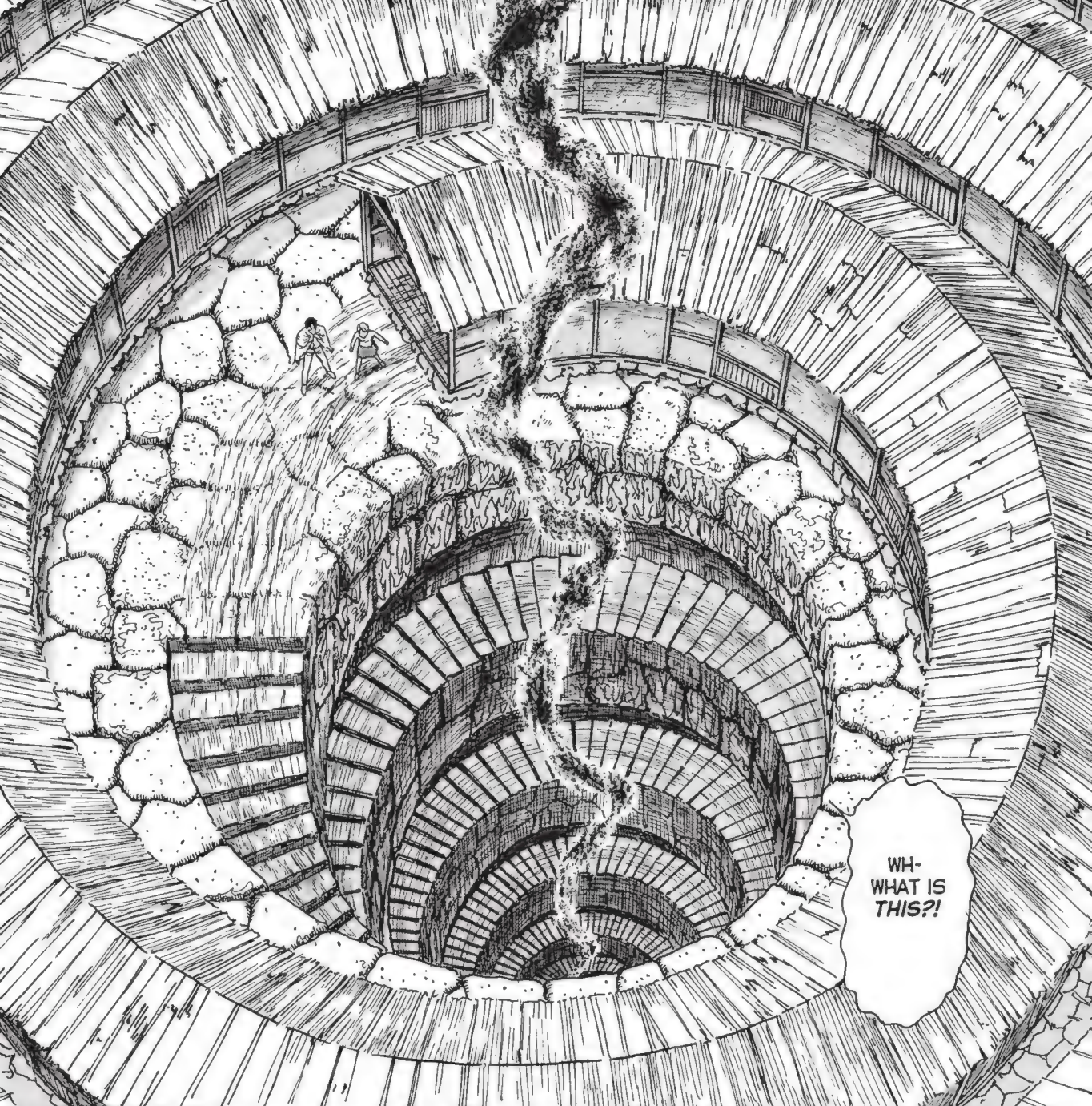
THEN IT
WAS
GONE.





AT THE END ...





WH-
WHAT IS
THIS?!



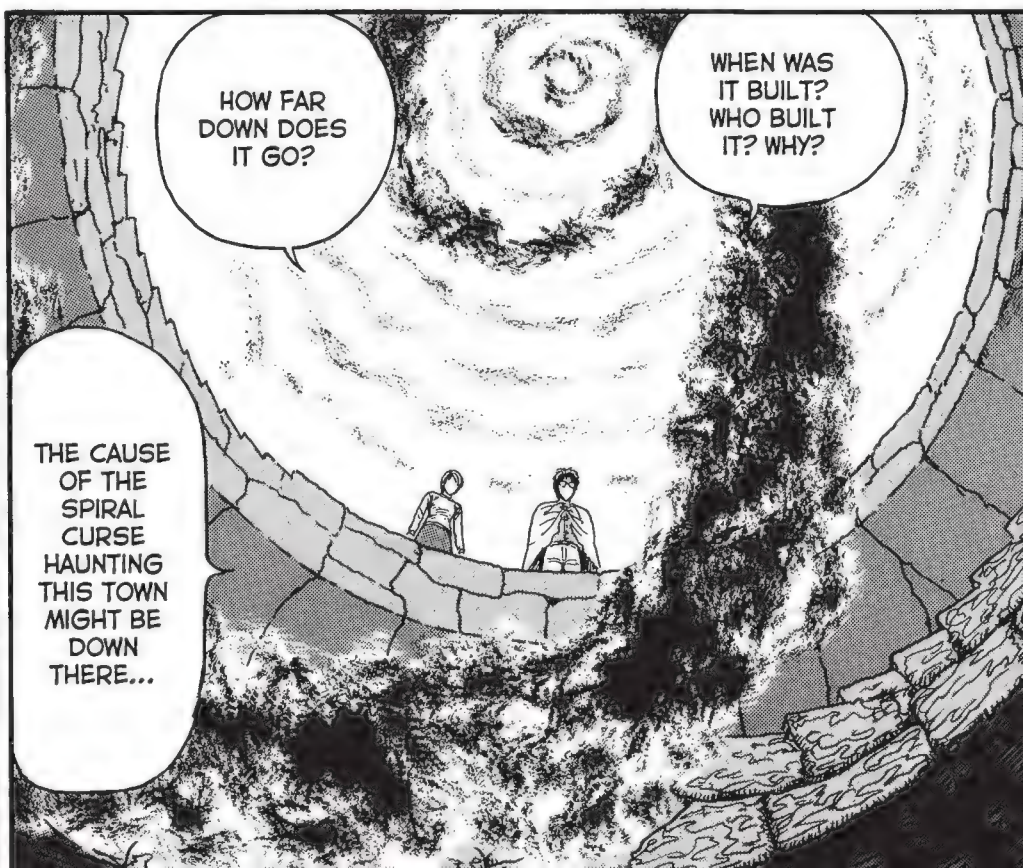
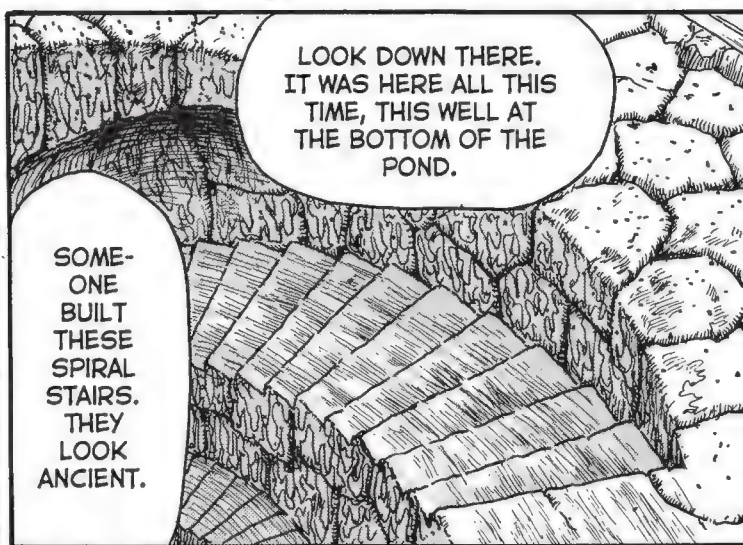
WEREN'T
THEY MAKING
POTTERY
HERE?

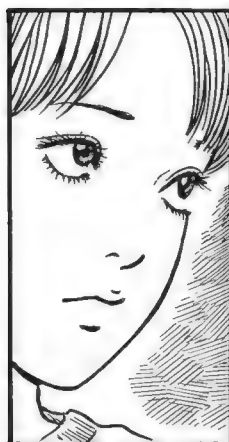
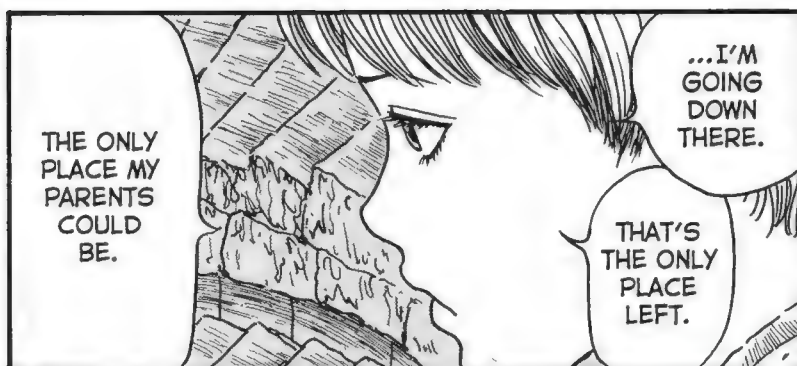
AND MY
MOTHER
AND
FATHER?

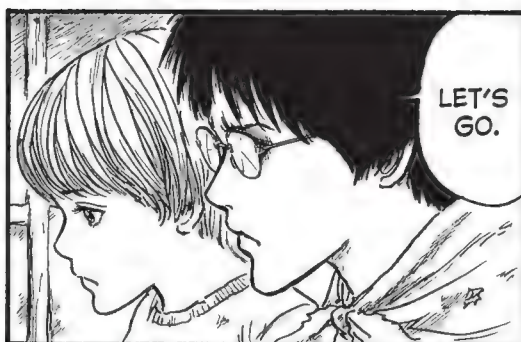
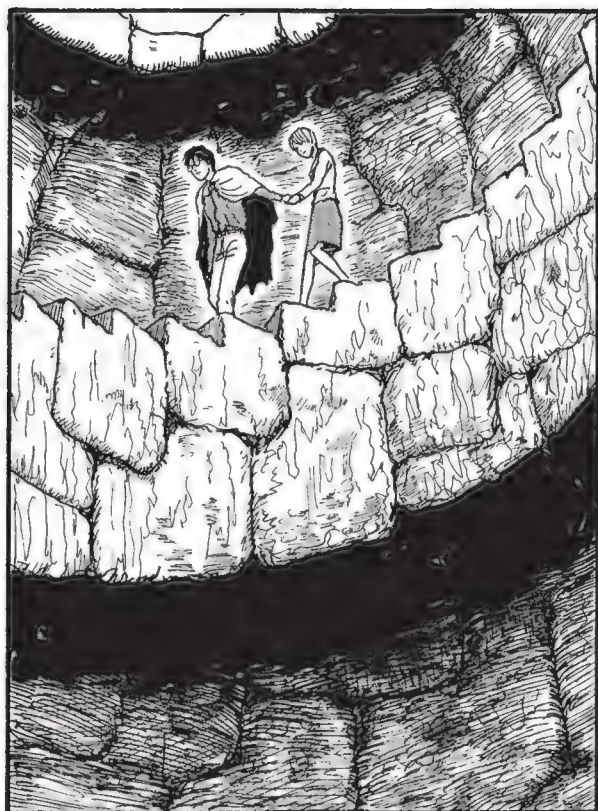


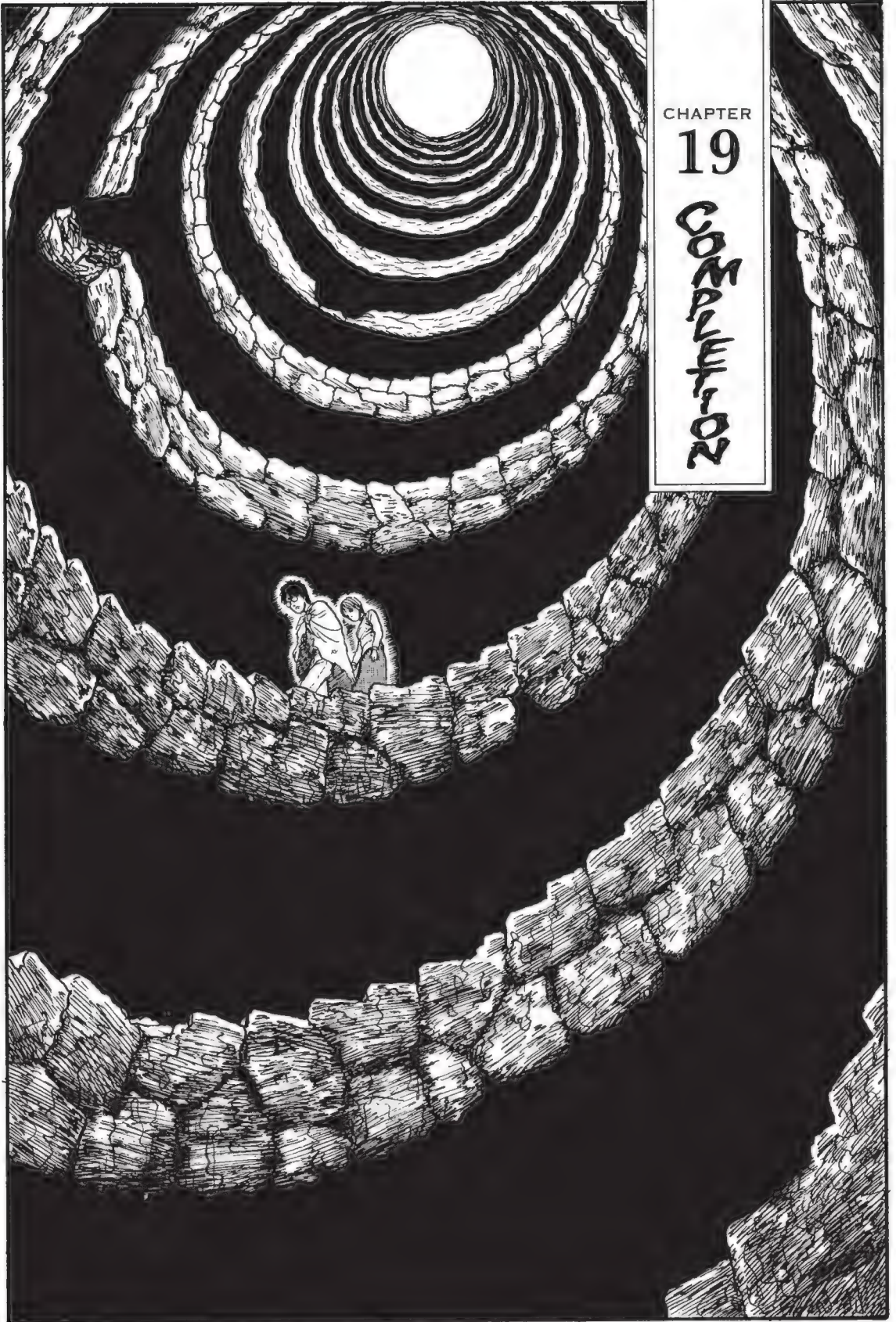
THE
WATER'S
RECEDED...

THIS MUST
HAVE BEEN
DRAGONFLY
POND.





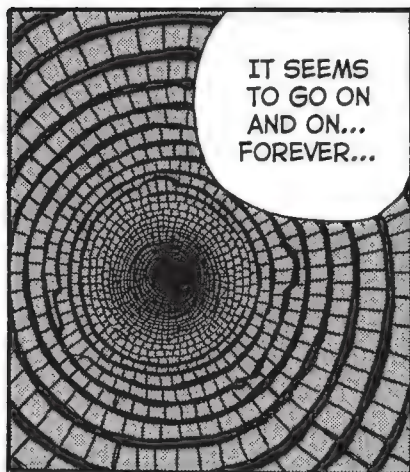




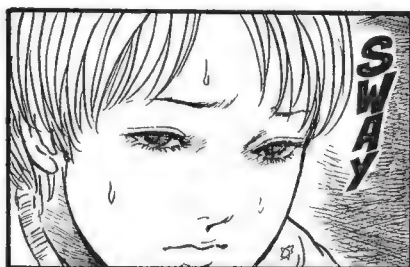
CHAPTER

19

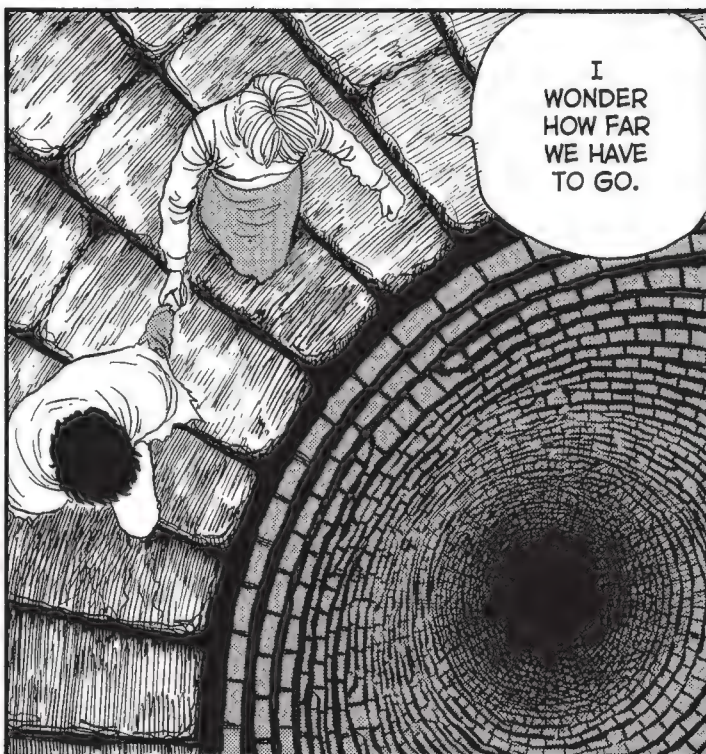
CONFESSION



IT SEEMS
TO GO ON
AND ON...
FOREVER...



SWAY

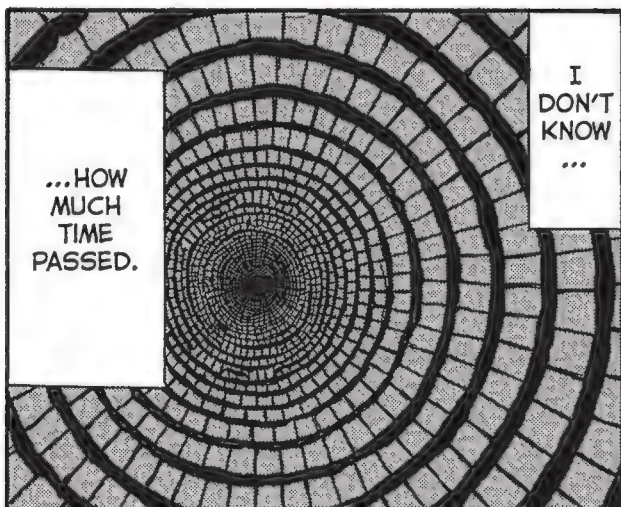


I
WONDER
HOW FAR
WE HAVE
TO GO.



DON'T
LOOK
DOWN
THERE!

KIRIE!
BE
CAREFUL!

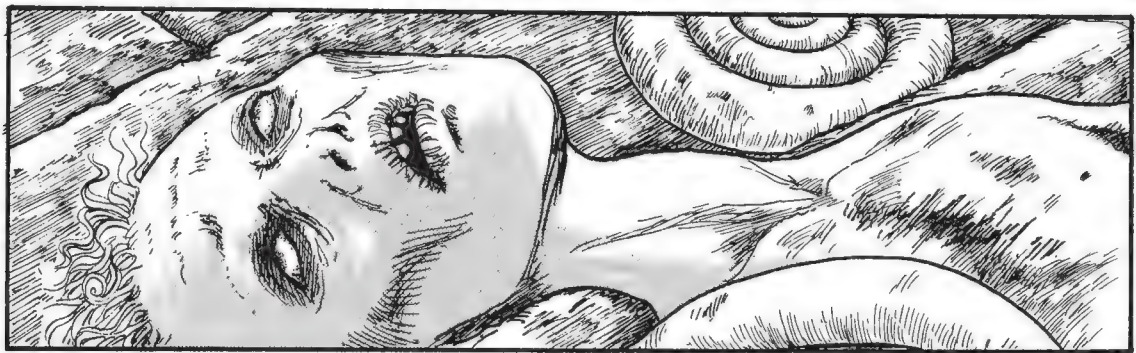
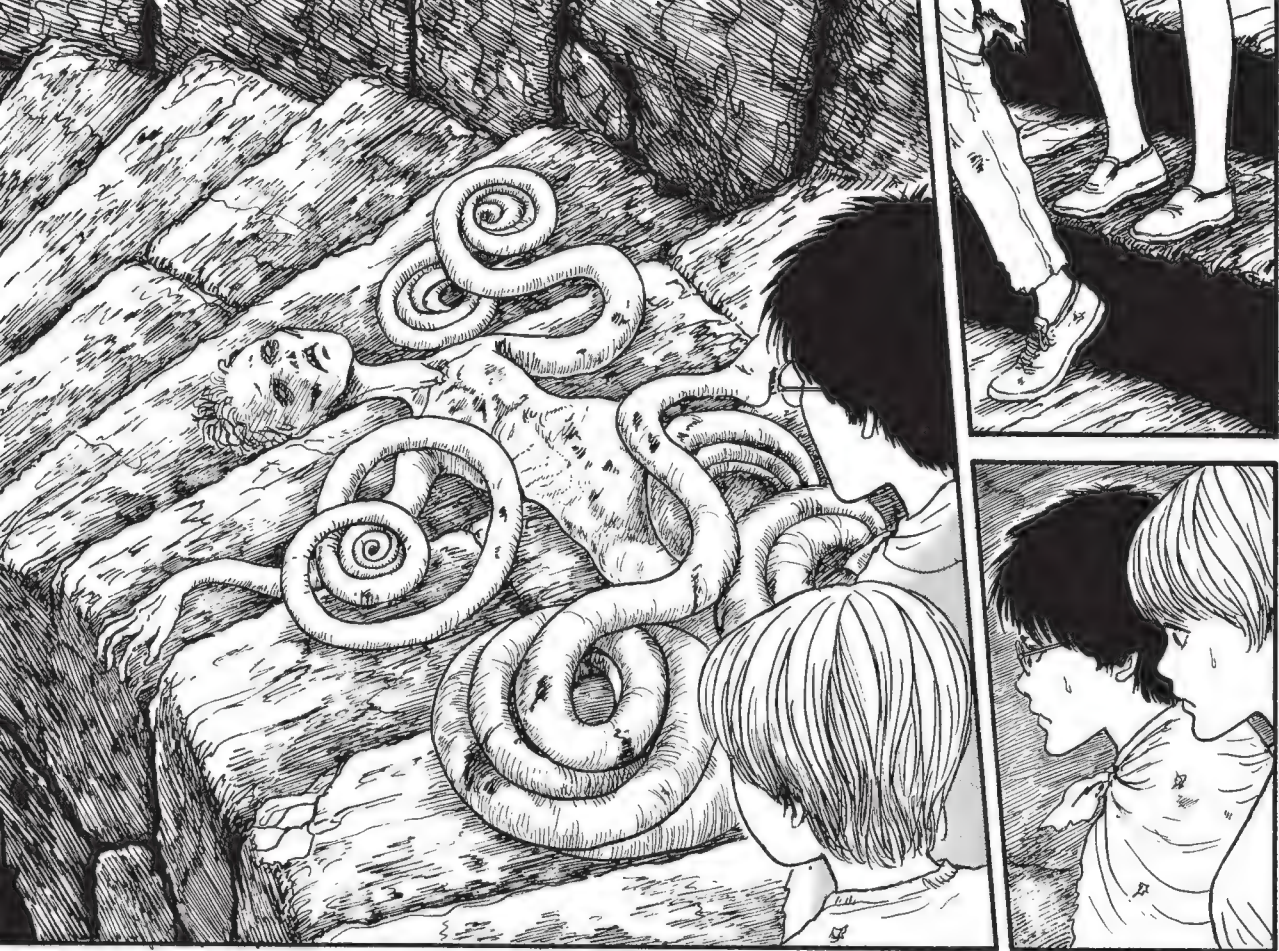


...HOW
MUCH
TIME
PASSED.

I
DON'T
KNOW
...



SWAY

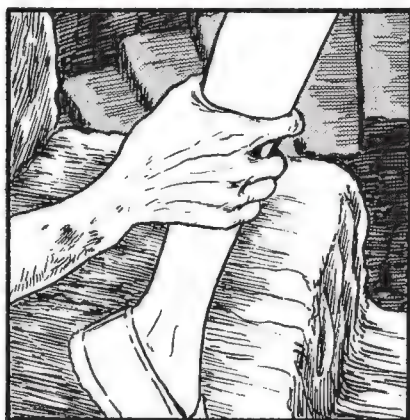


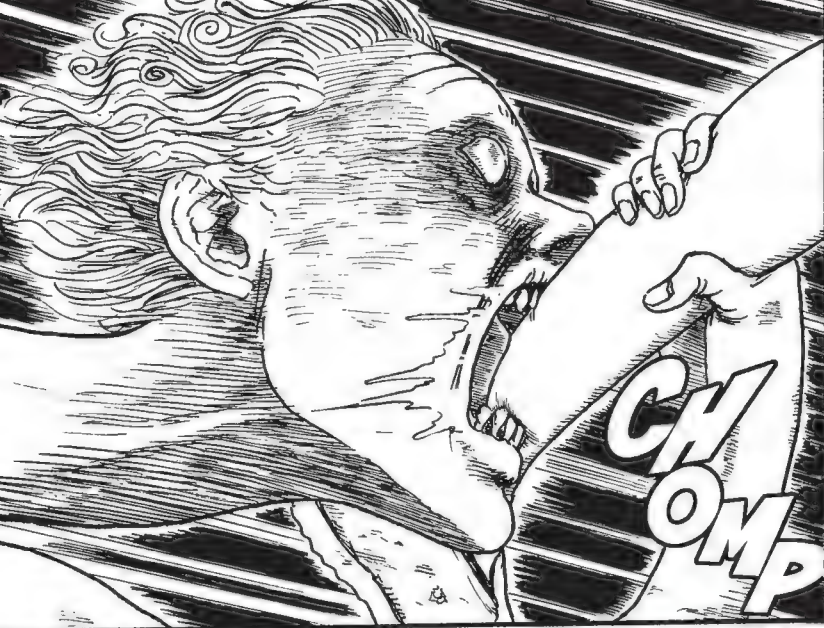
COME
ON.

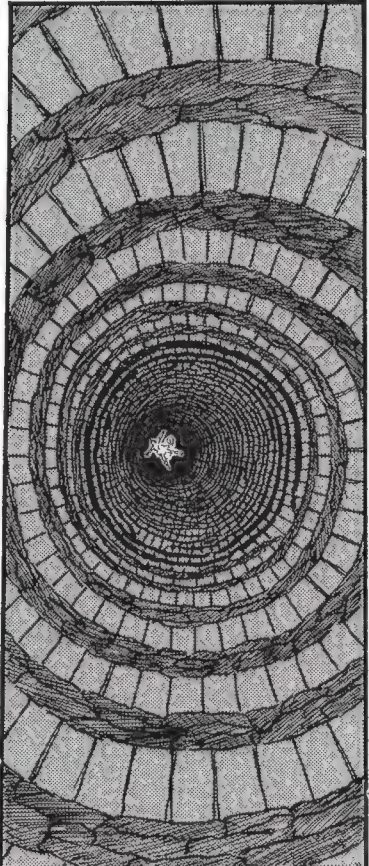
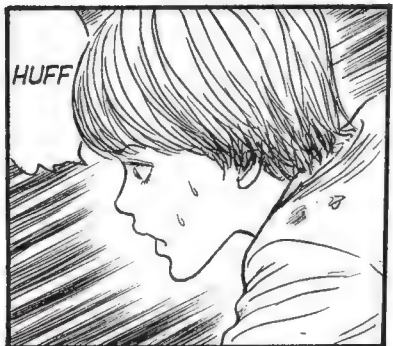
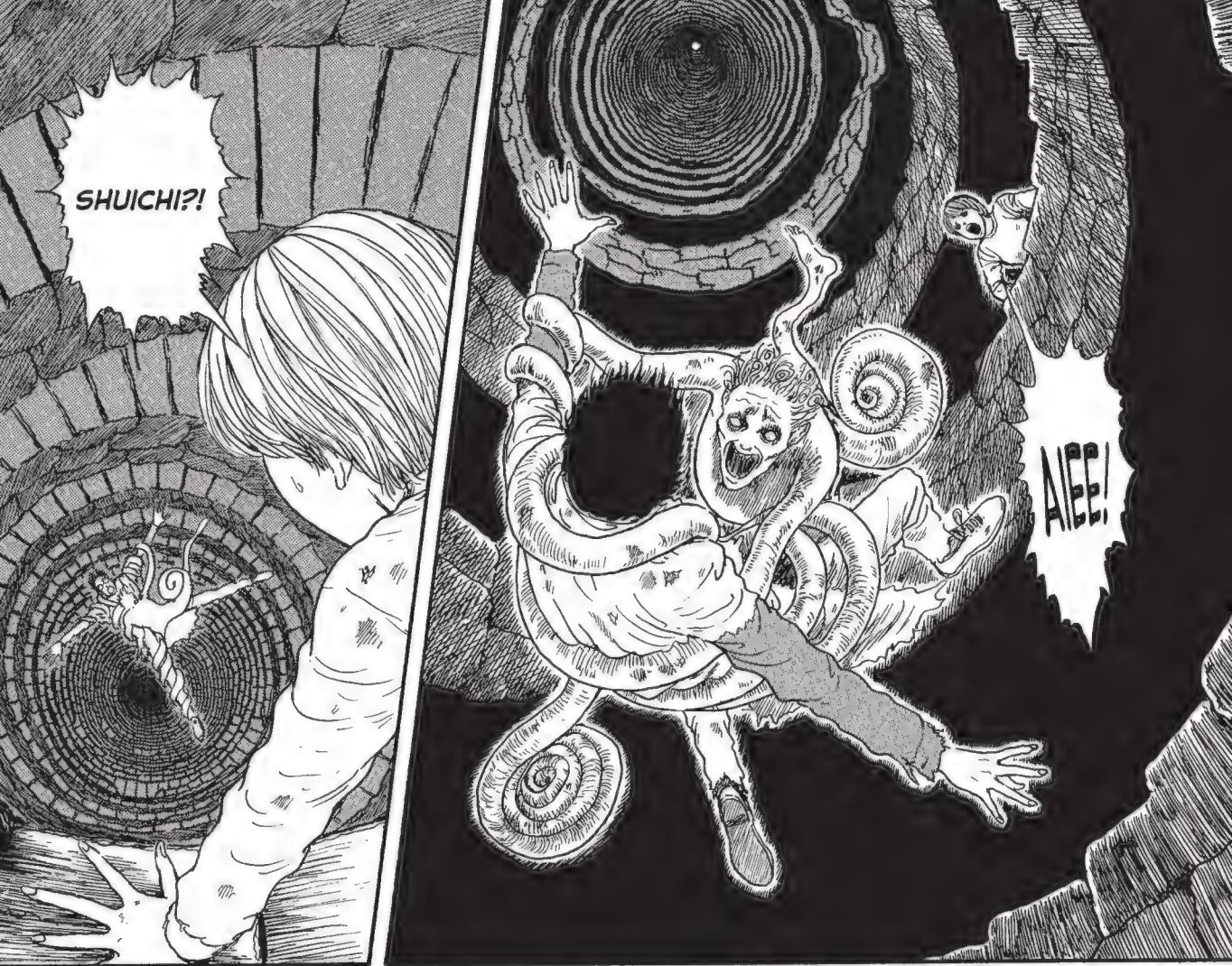


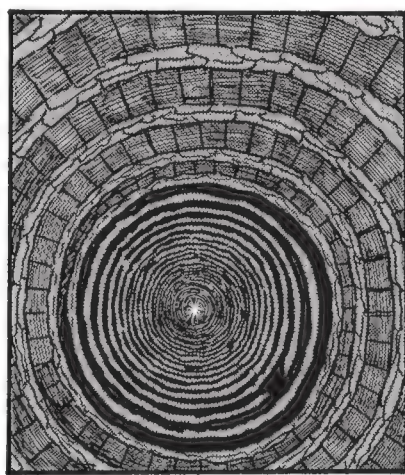
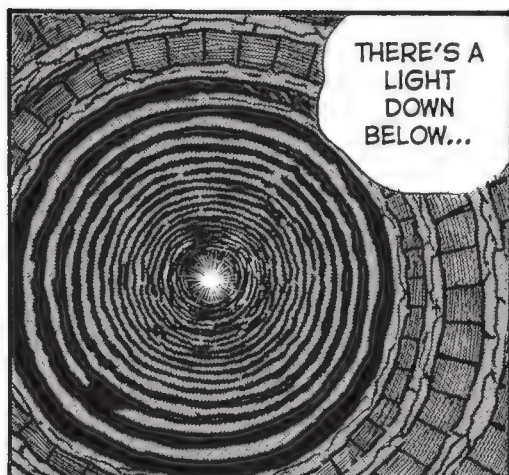
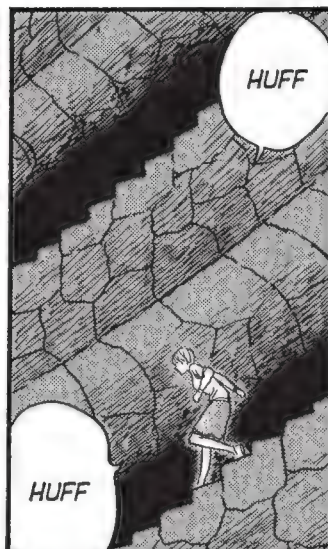
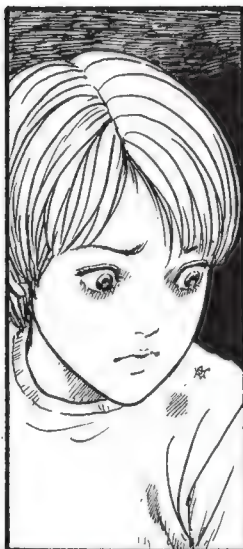
GUESS
HE GOT
LEFT
BEHIND.

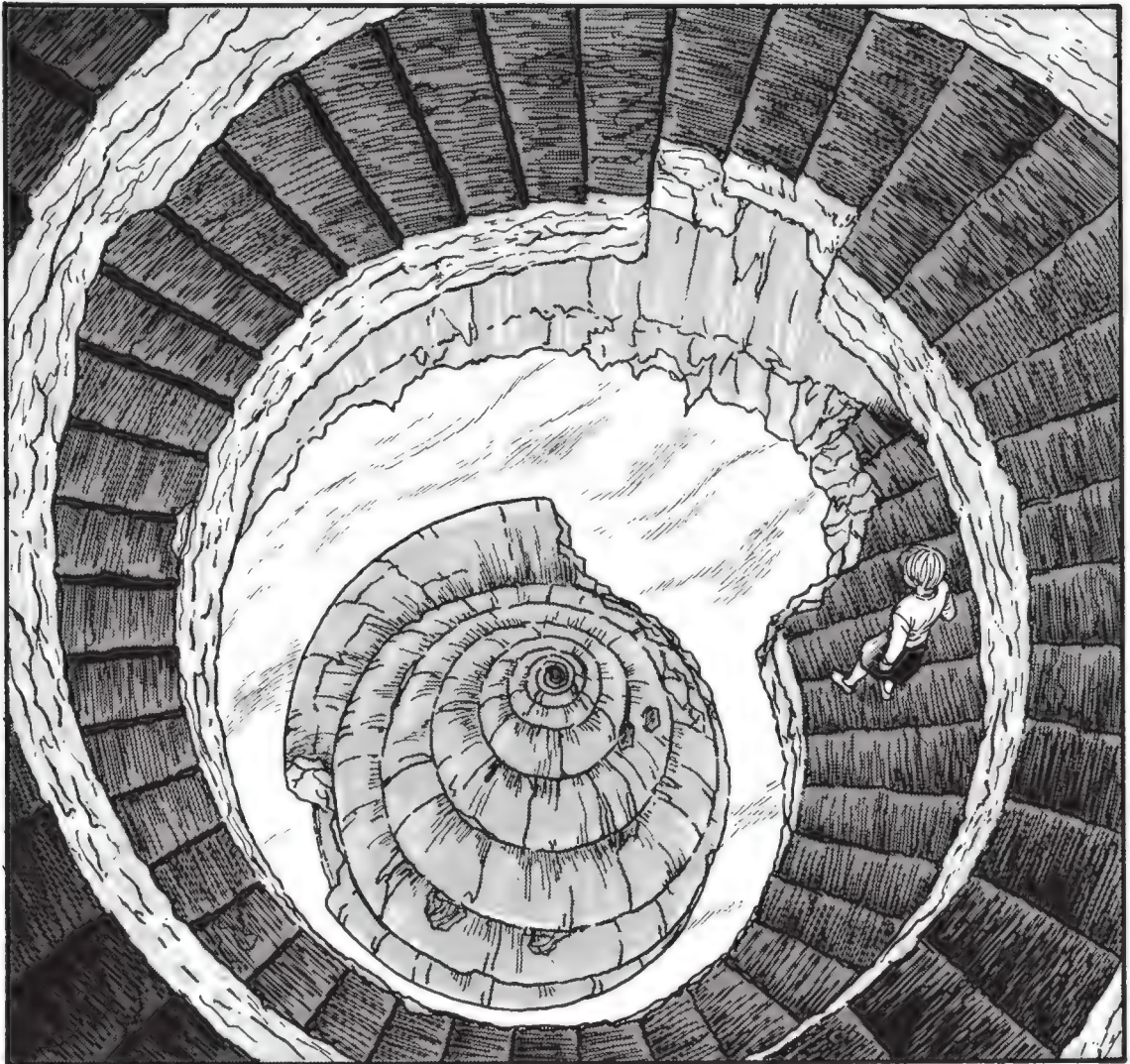
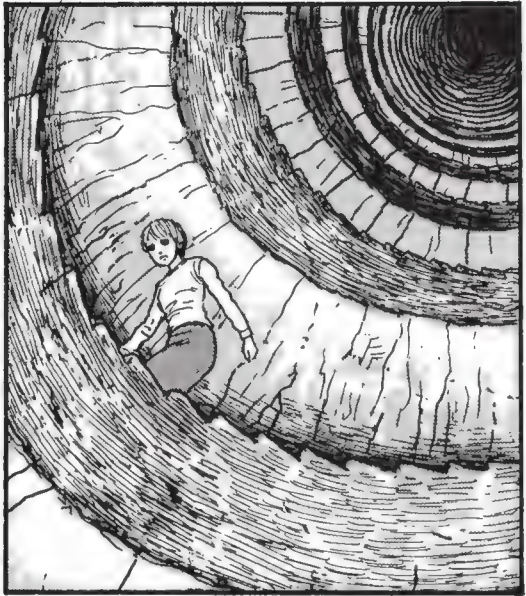
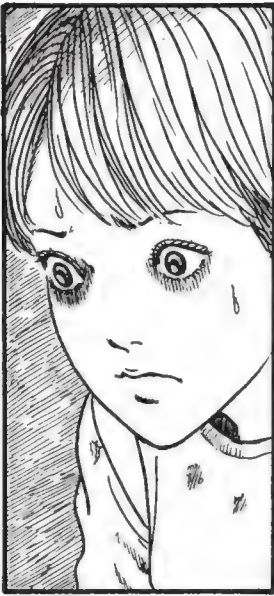
HE MUST'VE
COME HERE
FROM THE
ROW
HOUSES.



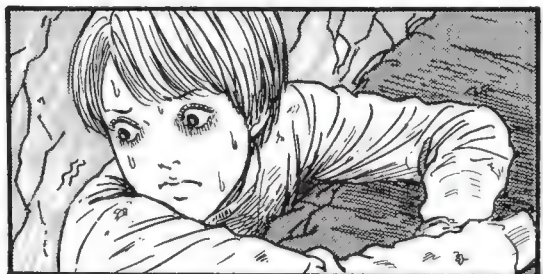


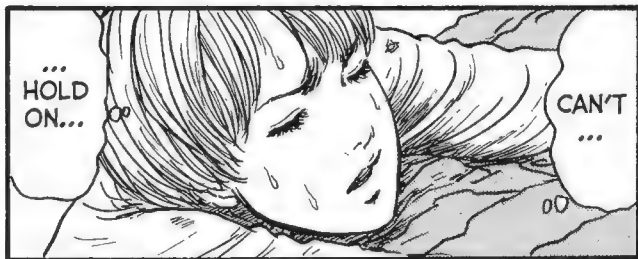
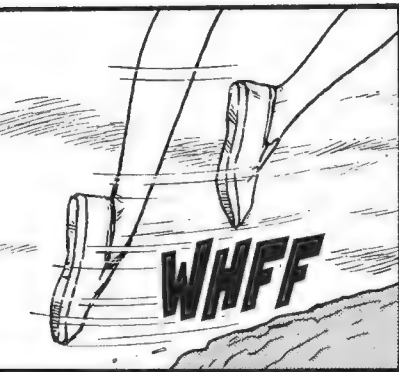
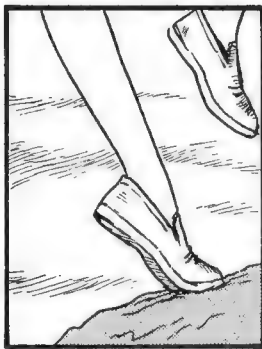
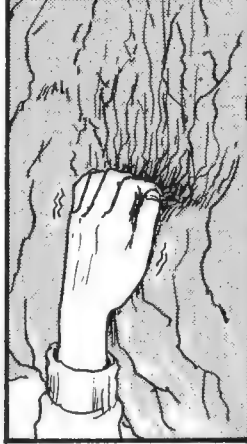


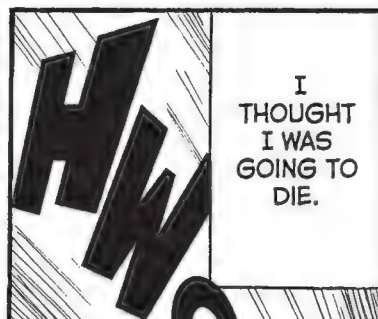
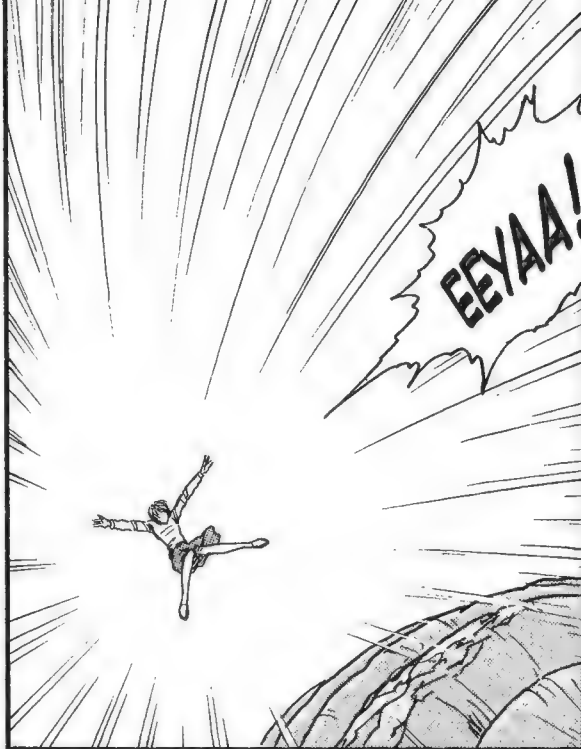












I
THOUGHT
I WAS
GOING TO
DIE.

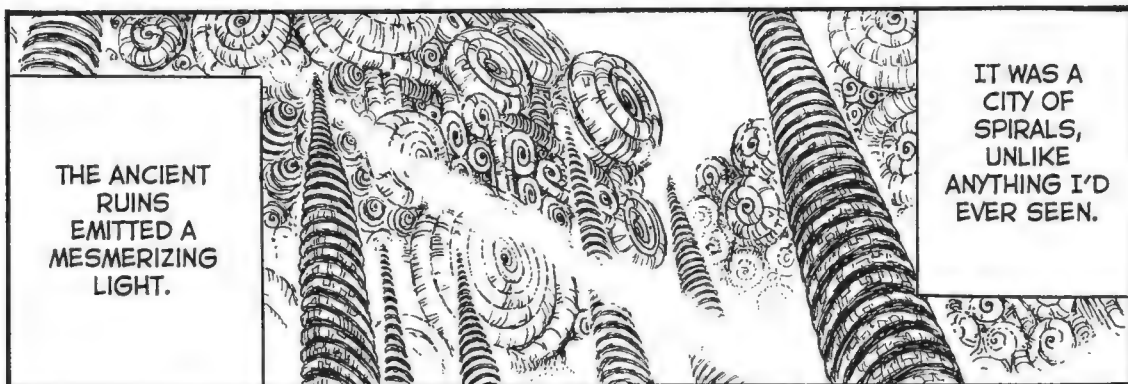


BUT
SOMEHOW
MY BODY
FELL
SLOWLY,
AS IF A
GREAT
WHIRLWIND
WERE
CARRYING
ME DOWN...









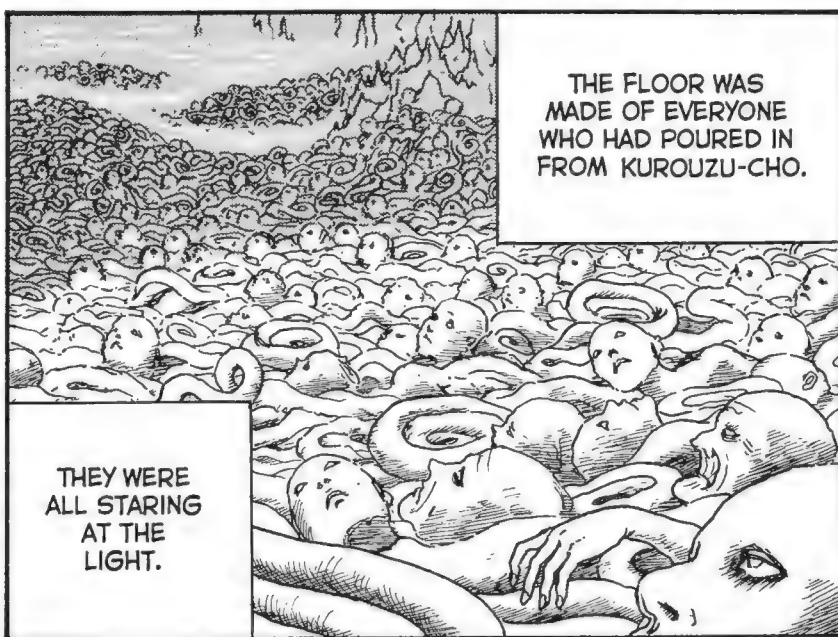
THE ANCIENT
RUINS
EMITTED A
MESMERIZING
LIGHT.

IT WAS A
CITY OF
SPIRALS,
UNLIKE
ANYTHING I'D
EVER SEEN.



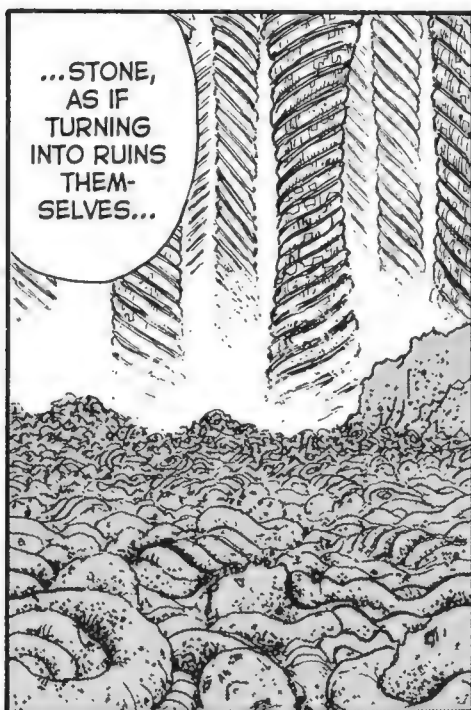
WHERE'S
SHUICHI?

HE
SHOULD BE
NEARBY...



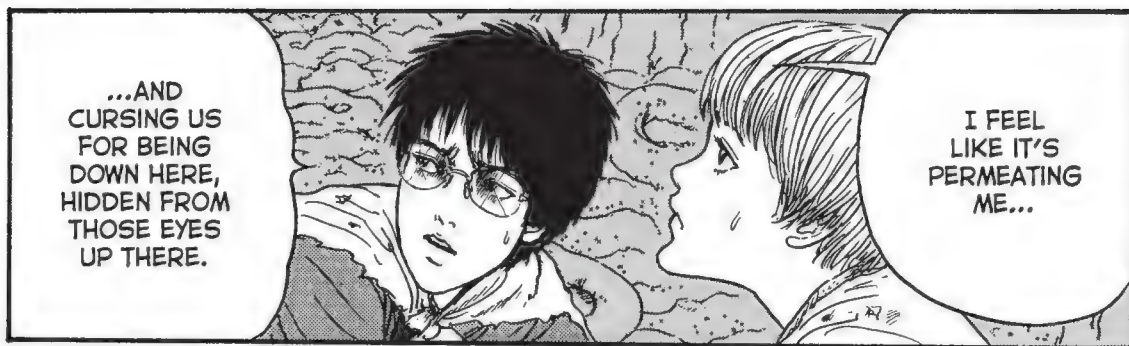
THE FLOOR WAS
MADE OF EVERYONE
WHO HAD POURED IN
FROM KUROUZU-CHO.

THEY WERE
ALL STARING
AT THE
LIGHT.









...AND CURSING US FOR BEING DOWN HERE, HIDDEN FROM THOSE EYES UP THERE.

I FEEL LIKE IT'S PERMEATING ME...



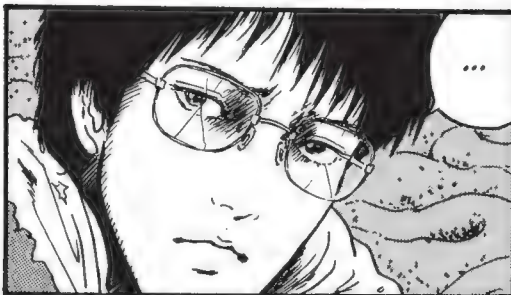
...BUT EVERY FEW HUNDRED, OR THOUSANDS, OR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS...IT CAN REACH THE PEOPLE ABOVE GROUND. AND THOUGH ITS BUILDERS ARE GONE...

...MAYBE IT'S STILL BUILDING ITSELF.

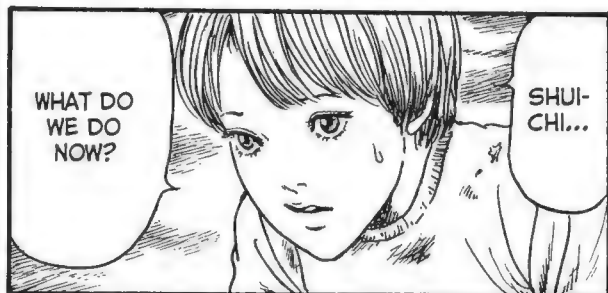


SPIRALS SUCK THINGS IN... THE EYE FOLLOWS THE PATTERN...

...TO THE CENTER. I DON'T KNOW WHO... OR WHAT... BUILT ALL THIS, OR WHY...

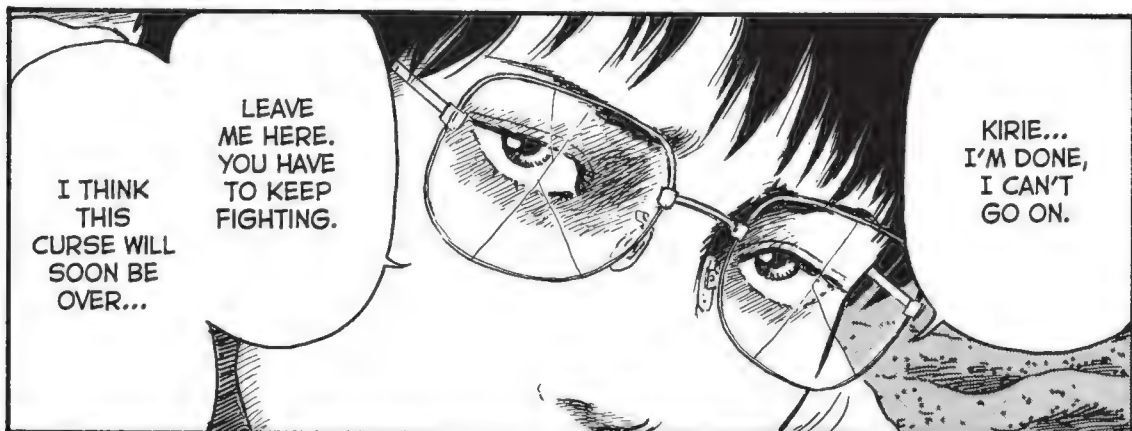


...



WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

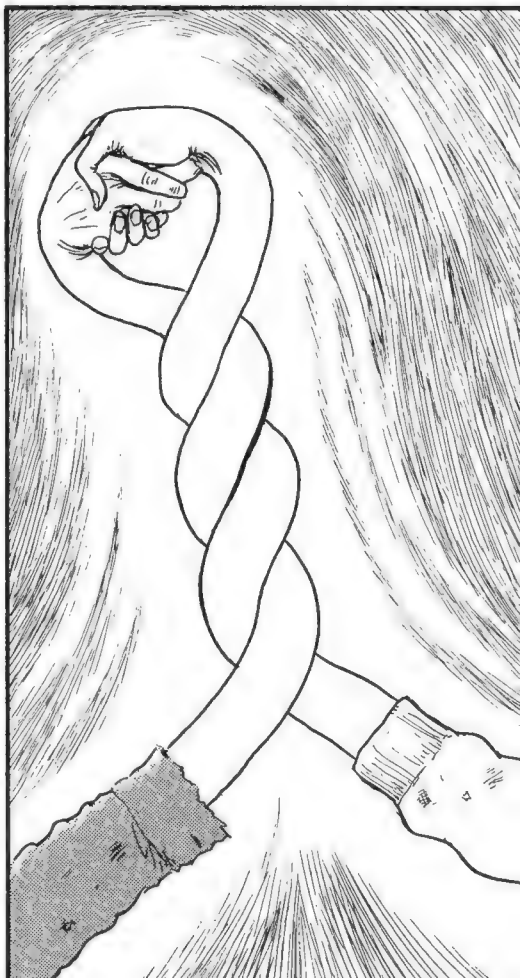
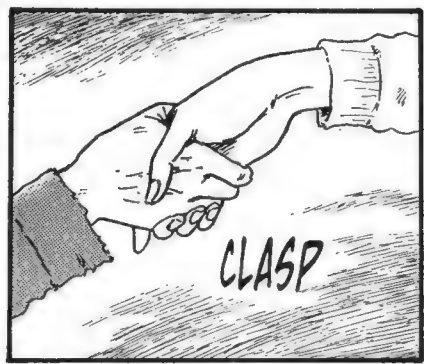
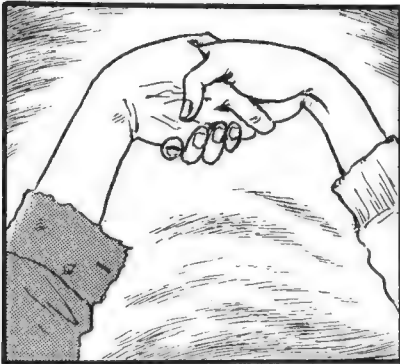
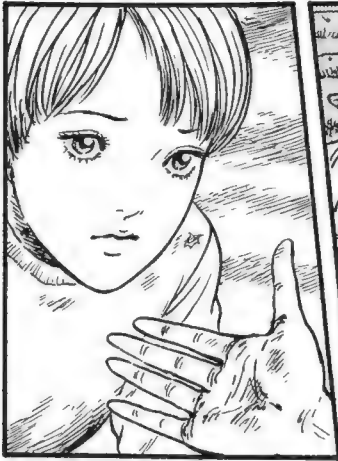
SHI-CHI...



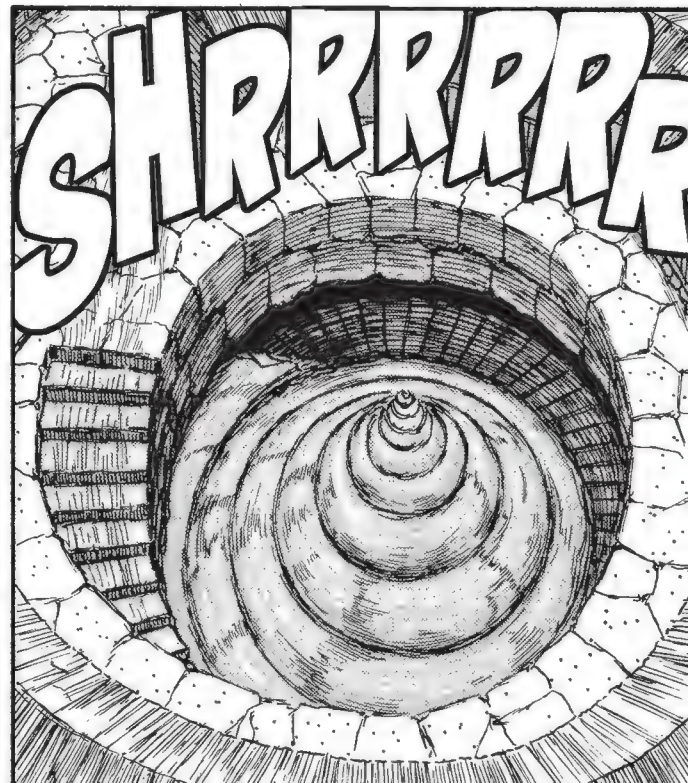
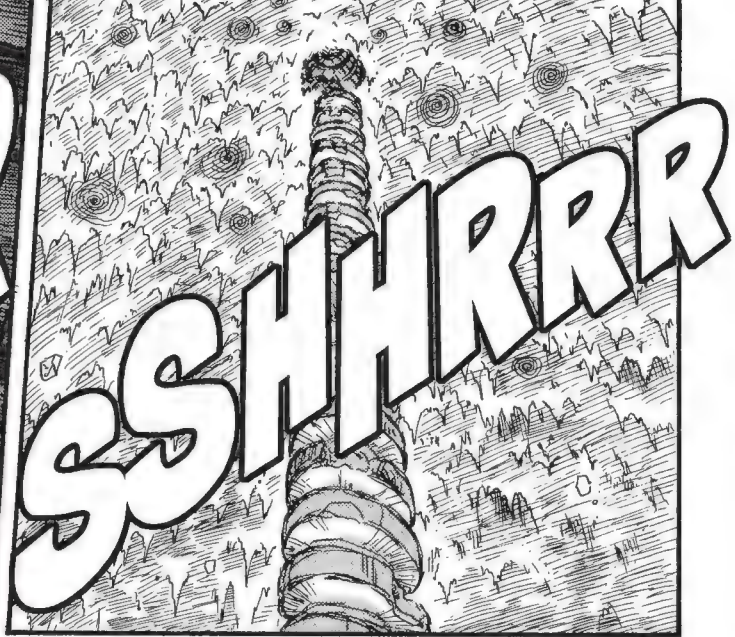
I THINK THIS CURSE WILL SOON BE OVER...

LEAVE ME HERE. YOU HAVE TO KEEP FIGHTING.

KIRIE... I'M DONE, I CAN'T GO ON.

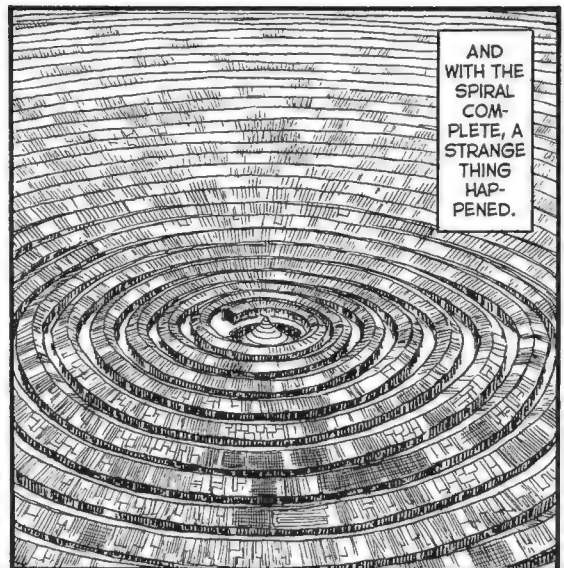








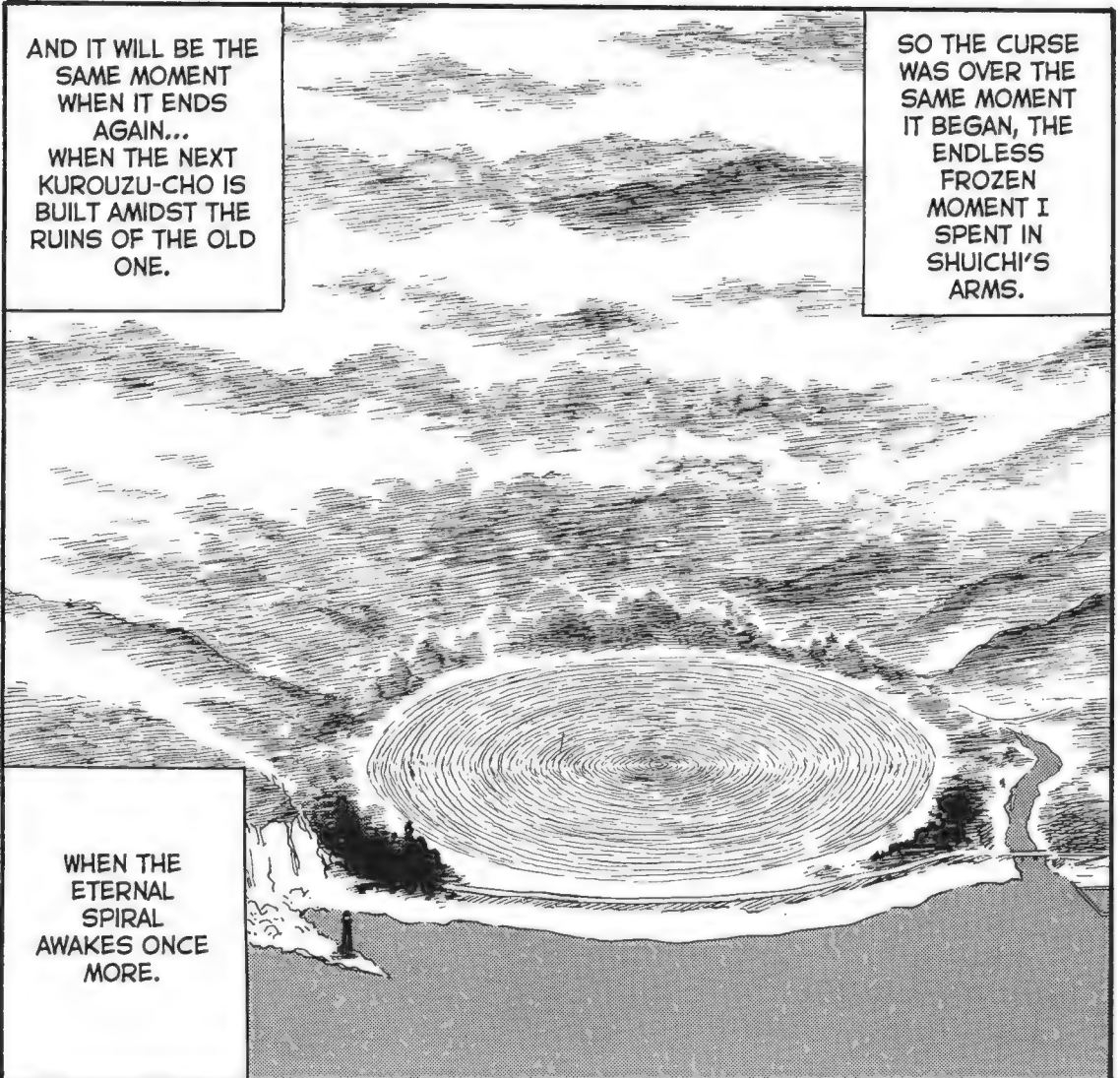
JUST AS TIME SPED
UP WHEN WE WERE
ON THE OUTSKIRTS,
IN THE CENTER OF
THE SPIRAL IT
STOOD STILL.



AND
WITH THE
SPIRAL COM-
PLETE, A STRANGE
THING HAP-
PENED.

AND IT WILL BE THE
SAME MOMENT
WHEN IT ENDS
AGAIN...
WHEN THE NEXT
KUROUZU-CHO IS
BUILT AMIDST THE
RUINS OF THE OLD
ONE.

SO THE CURSE
WAS OVER THE
SAME MOMENT
IT BEGAN, THE
ENDLESS
FROZEN
MOMENT I
SPENT IN
SHUICHI'S
ARMS.



WHEN THE
ETERNAL
SPIRAL
AWAKES ONCE
MORE.

THE END

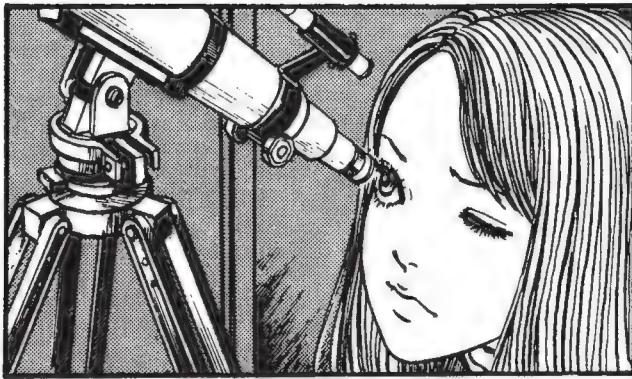




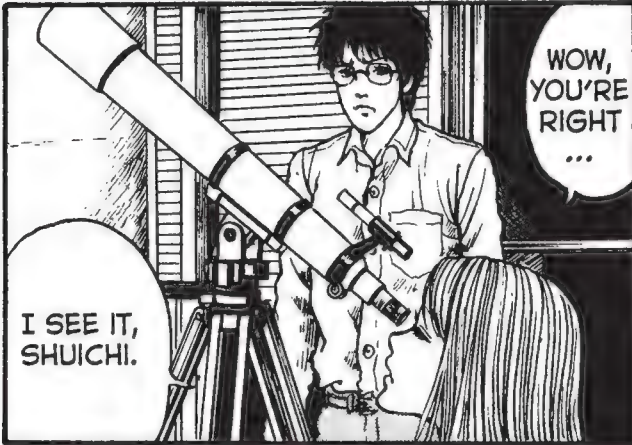
LOST
CHAPTER

GALAXIES





LOOK
AT
THAT,
KIRIE.

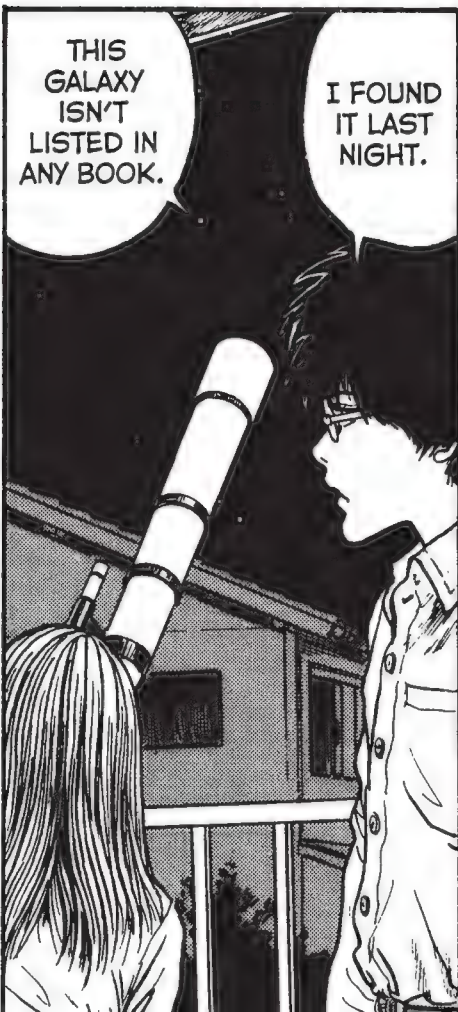


WOW,
YOU'RE
RIGHT
...

I SEE IT,
SHUICHI.

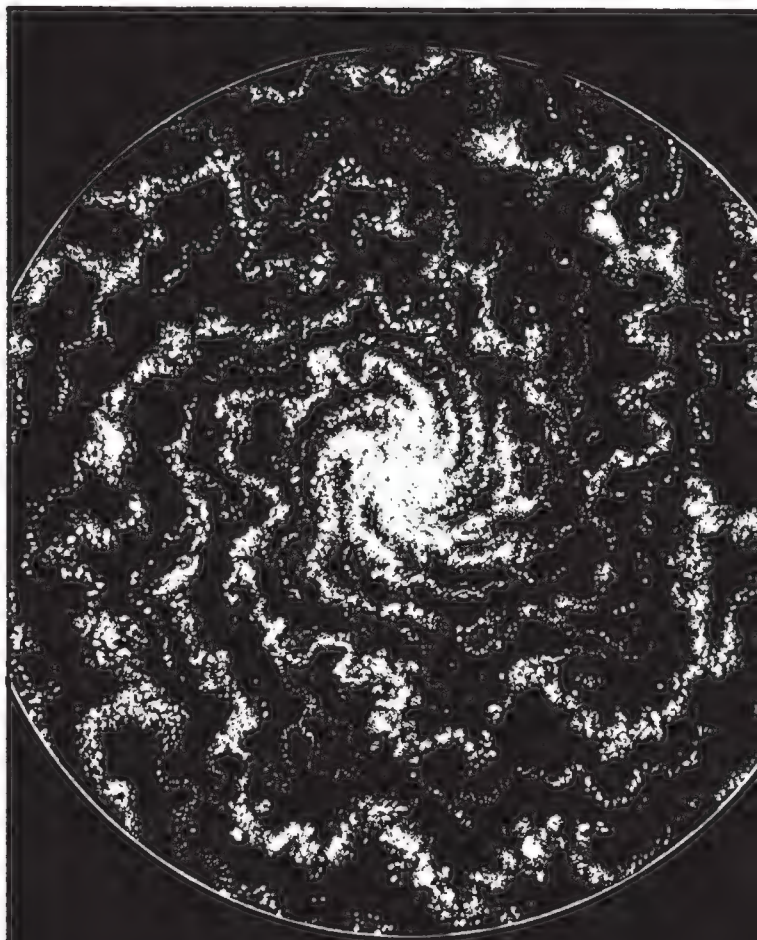


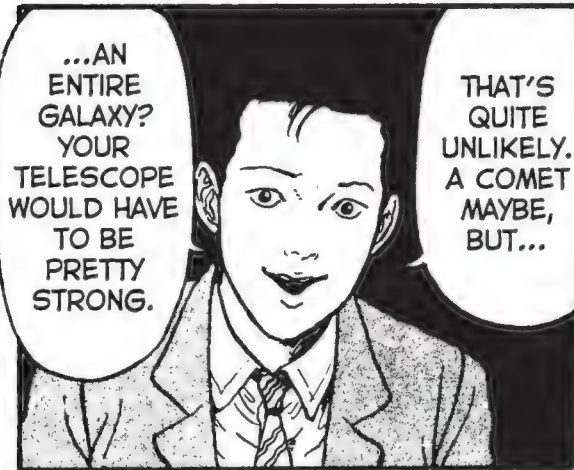
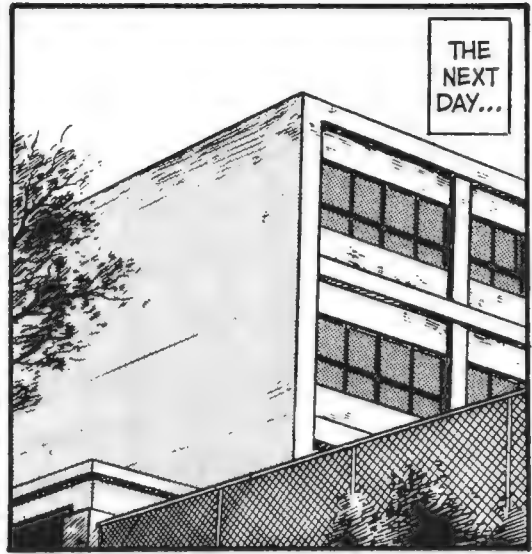
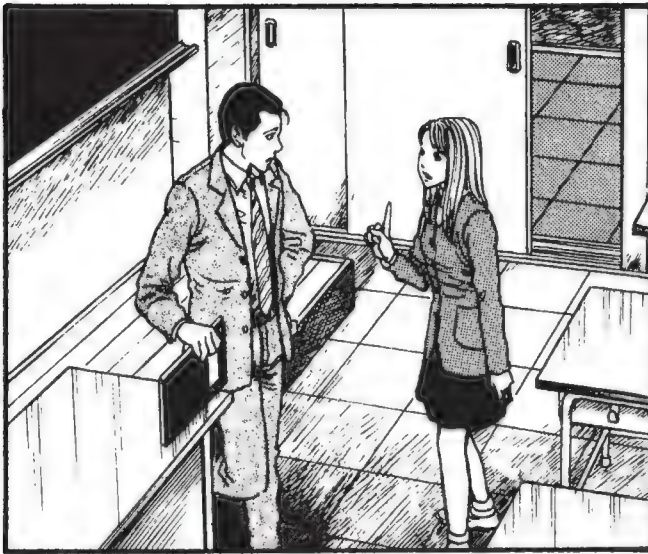
CAN
YOU
SEE
IT?



THIS
GALAXY
ISN'T
LISTED IN
ANY BOOK.

I FOUND
IT LAST
NIGHT.





...AN
ENTIRE
GALAXY?
YOUR
TELESCOPE
WOULD HAVE
TO BE
PRETTY
STRONG.

THAT'S
QUITE
UNLIKELY.
A COMET
MAYBE,
BUT...



YES, MR.
YOKOTA.

WHAT?
YOU
DISCOVERED
A NEW
GALAXY?



HE'S SUCH
A MANIAC HE
BUILT AN
OBSERVATORY
IN HIS
HOUSE.

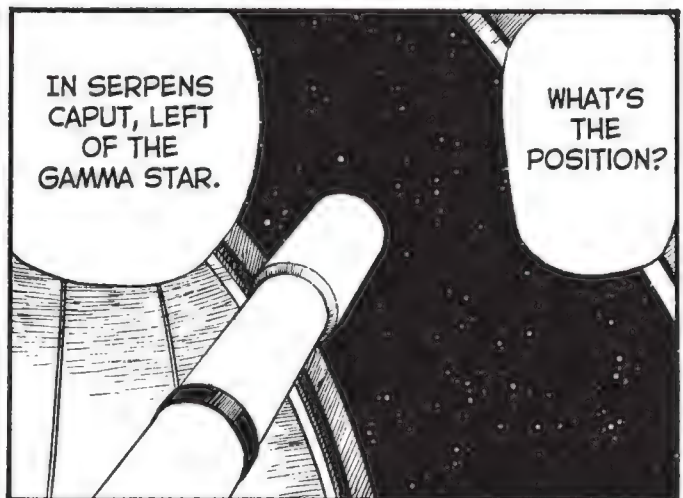
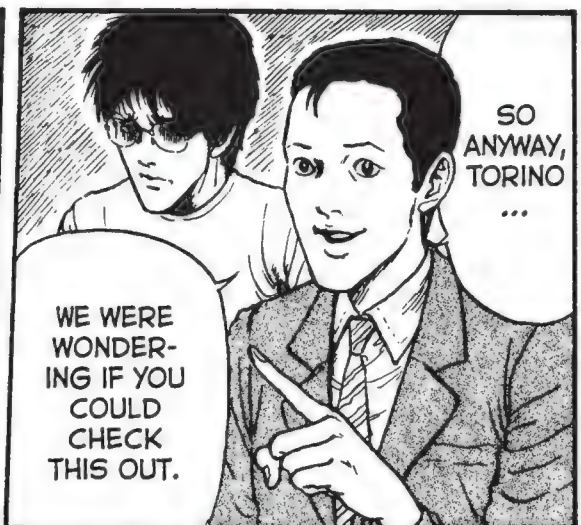
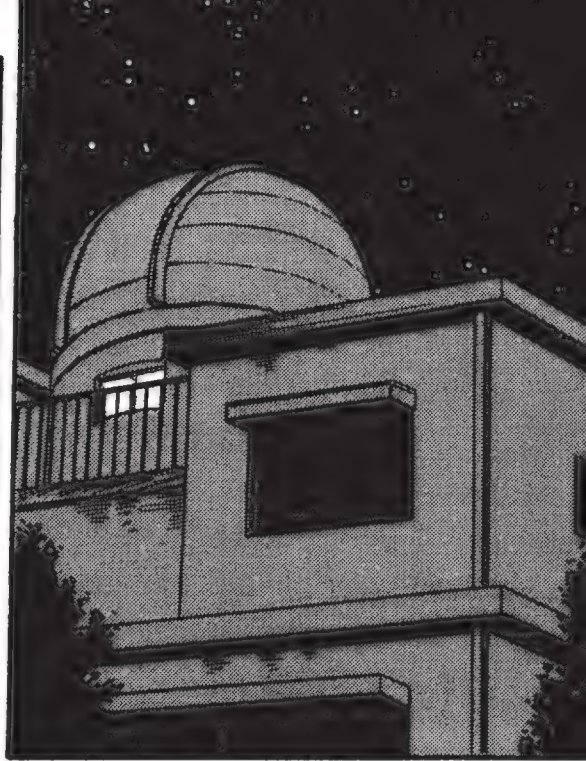
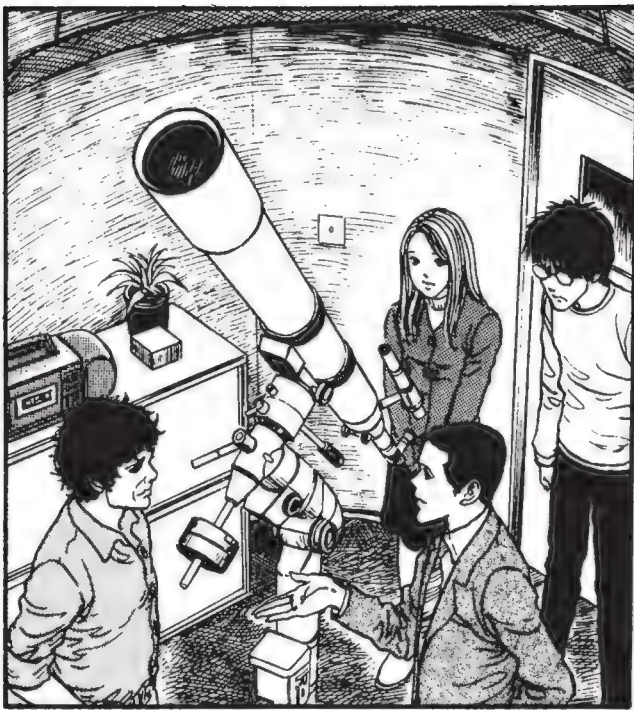
ALL RIGHT...
I HAVE A FRIEND
WHO'S AN
ARMCHAIR AS-
TRONOMER.
I'LL ASK HIM.



HMM...

PLEASE
COME
AND TAKE
A LOOK!

SHUICHI'S
REALLY GOOD
AT ASTRONOMY.
I'M SURE HE
HASN'T MADE A
MISTAKE.



THERE
IT IS!
I'VE
NEVER
SEEN IT
BEFORE!



YOU'RE
RIGHT!

WHAT
?!



...



WE'LL HAVE
TO CHECK
WITH THE
NATIONAL
ASTRO-
NOMICAL
OBSERVATORY
TO MAKE
SURE IT ISN'T
REGISTERED
YET.

HOLD ON,
LET'S NOT
JUMP TO
CONCLU-
SIONS.



REALLY?!
THEN IT'S
TRUE?!



...WITH
THAT
THING!

DON'T
SAY THAT!
I DON'T
WANT MY
NAME AS-
SOCIATED
WITH...



THAT'S
RIGHT.

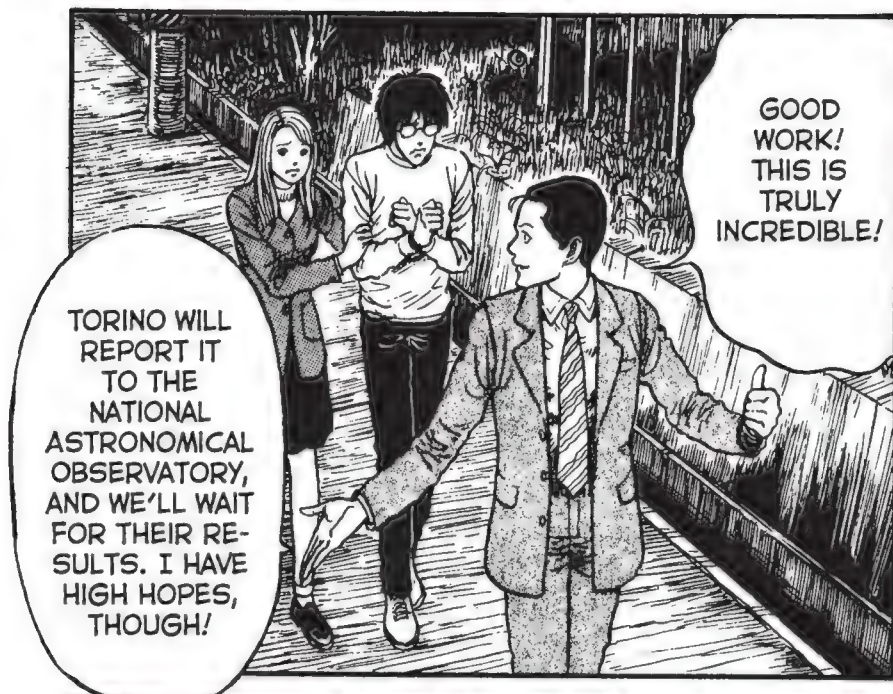
BUT...
IF IT'S TRUE,
THEN THIS IS A
REAL FIND!



IT MIGHT
ACTUALLY
BE NAMED
AFTER YOU.
THE
SHUICHI
GALAXY!

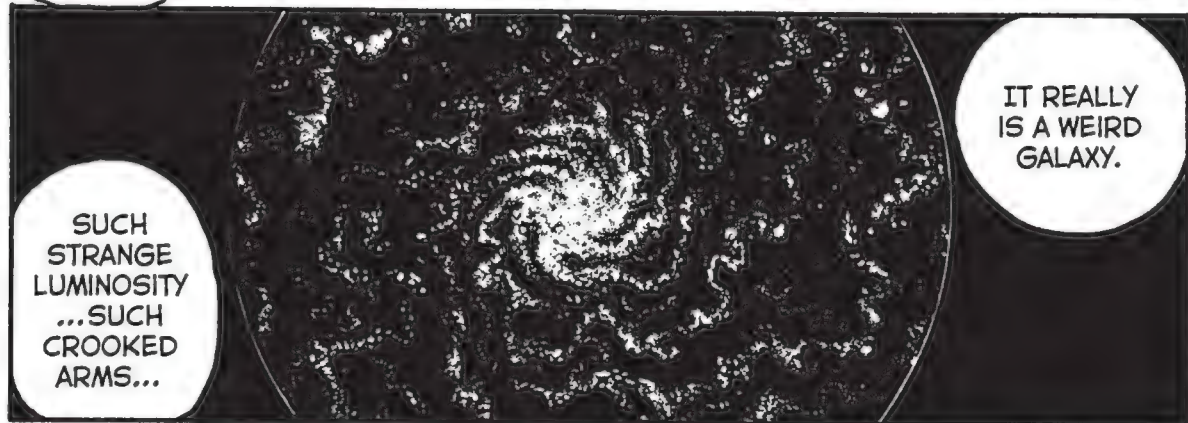


...



GOOD
WORK!
THIS IS
TRULY
INCREDIBLE!

TORINO WILL
REPORT IT
TO THE
NATIONAL
ASTRONOMICAL
OBSERVATORY,
AND WE'LL WAIT
FOR THEIR RE-
SULTS. I HAVE
HIGH HOPES,
THOUGH!



SUCH
STRANGE
LUMINOSITY
...SUCH
CROOKED
ARMS...

IT REALLY
IS A WEIRD
GALAXY.



...THEN
IT'S
ABSO-
LUTELY
AMAZING!

IF THIS
IS A NEW
DISCOV-
ERY...



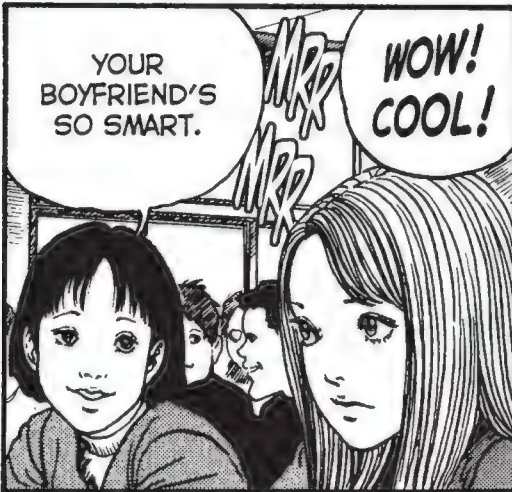
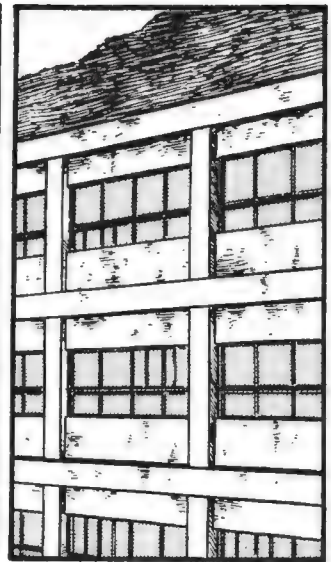
IT'S SO
CLEAR.
HOW
COULD I
HAVE
MISSED IT?

BUT WHY
DIDN'T I
NOTICE IT
UNTIL
NOW?



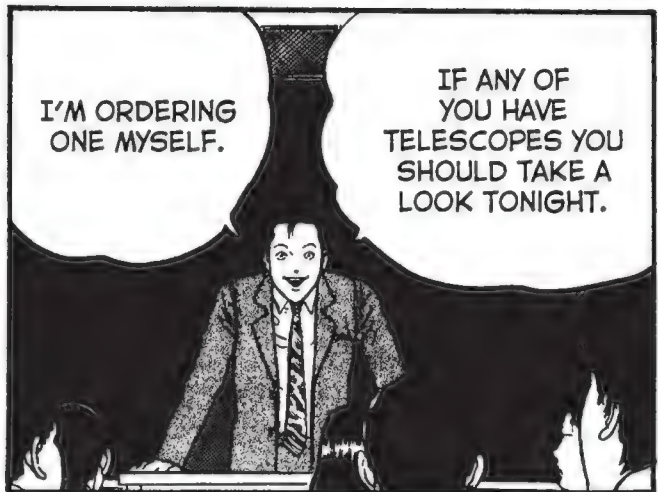
I WAS SO
EXCITED I
COULDN'T
SLEEP!

...SO ONE
OF KIRIE'S
FRIENDS
MIGHT HAVE
MADE A
GREAT
DISCOV-
ERY!



YOUR
BOYFRIEND'S
SO SMART.

MRP
MRP
WOW!
COOL!



I'M ORDERING
ONE MYSELF.

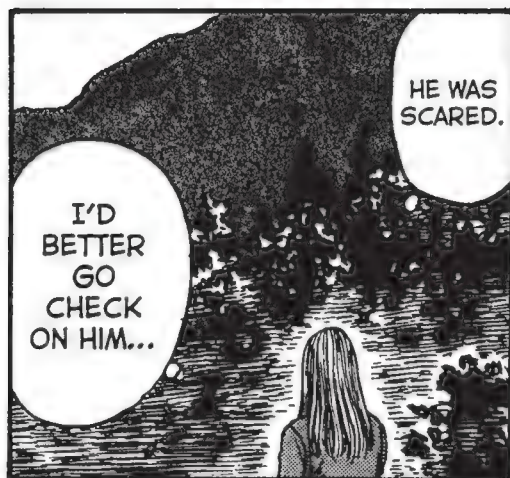
IF ANY OF
YOU HAVE
TELESCOPES YOU
SHOULD TAKE A
LOOK TONIGHT.



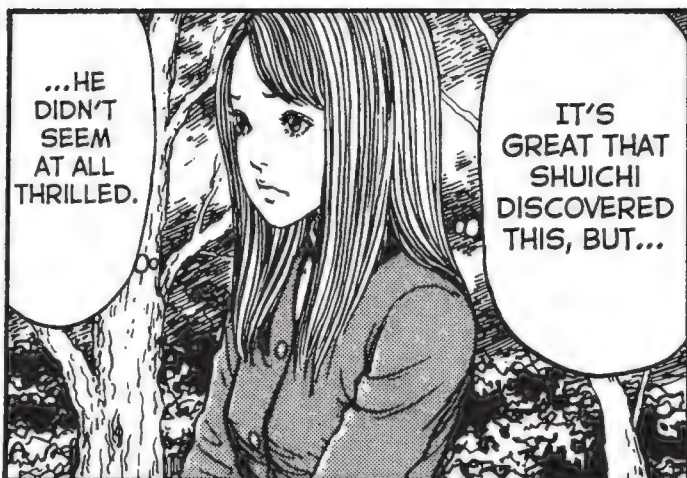
THERE WAS
A SUDDEN
ASTRONOMY
BOOM AT OUR
SCHOOL.

THE
UNIVERSE
IS EX-
PANDING,
SO...

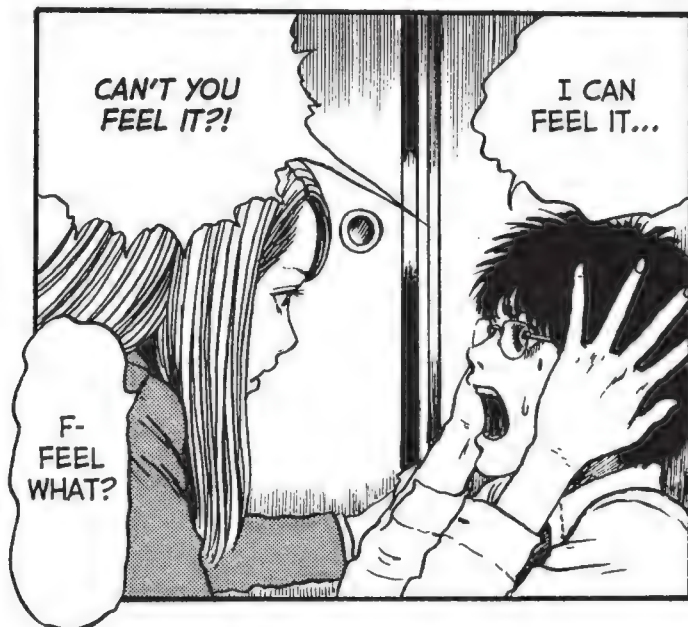
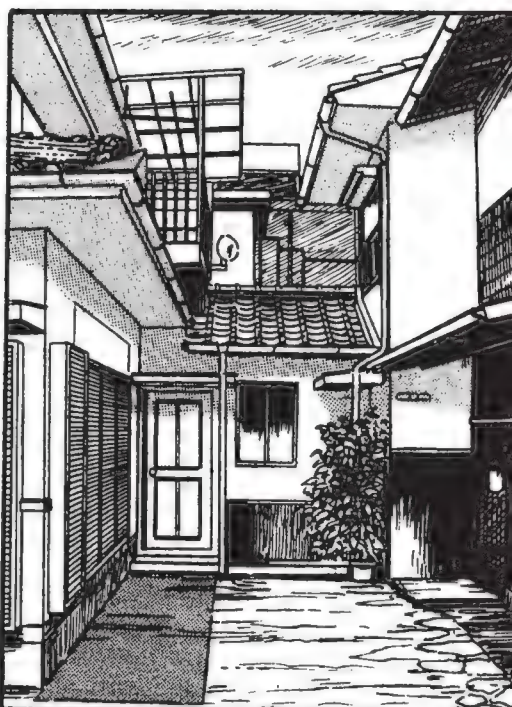
DID YOU
SEE THE
METEOR
SWARM IN
LEO?



HE WAS SCARED.



IT'S GREAT THAT SHUICHI DISCOVERED THIS, BUT...

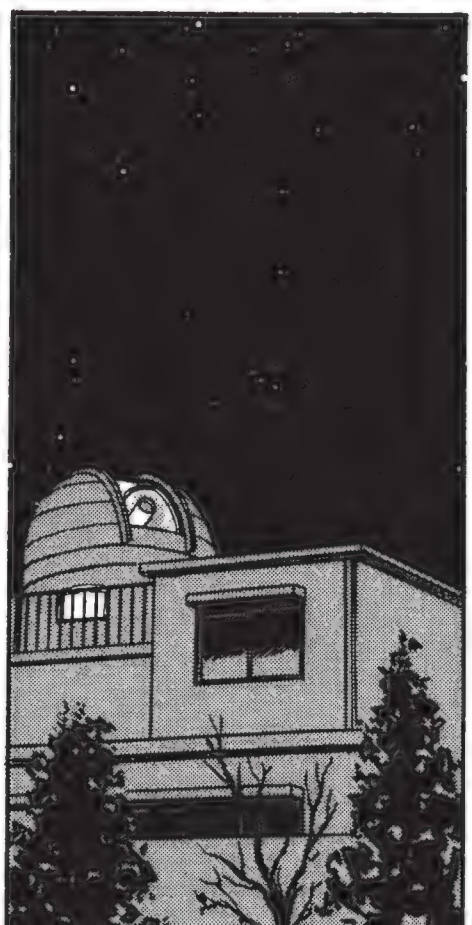
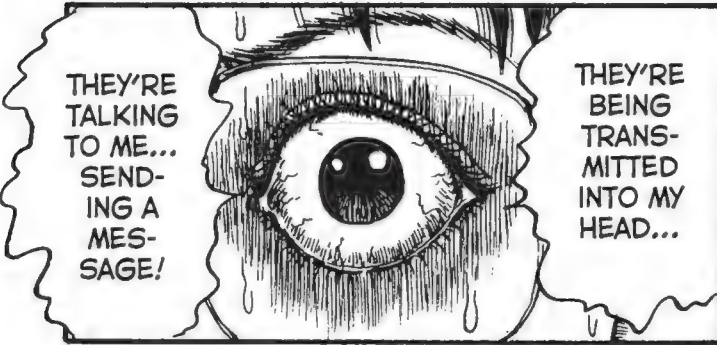
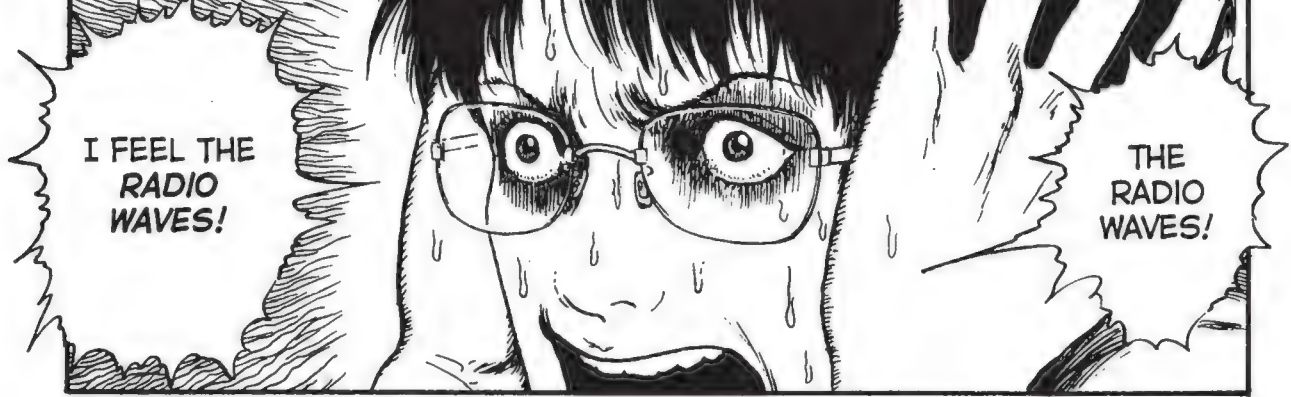


CAN'T YOU FEEL IT?!

I CAN FEEL IT...



WHAT'S WRONG, SHUICHI?!





AHH!

SOME-
THING'S
TRYING TO
TELL ME
SOME-
THING...



WH-WHAT
IS THIS
SENSA-
TION?



IT'S
SO...
SO...

...SO
BEAUTI-
FUL!
THE
MORE I
LOOK AT
IT...



PLEASE!



AGHH!
STOP!

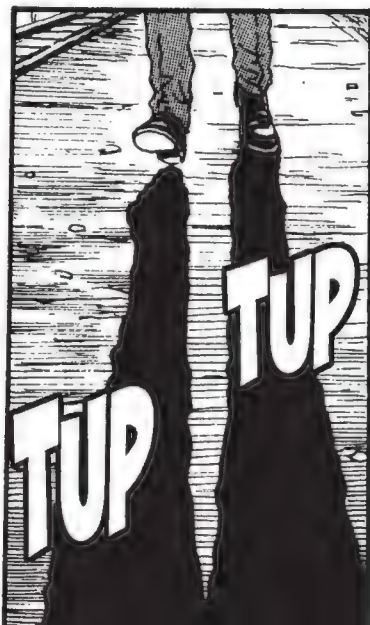
AGHH!

STOP
IT!!



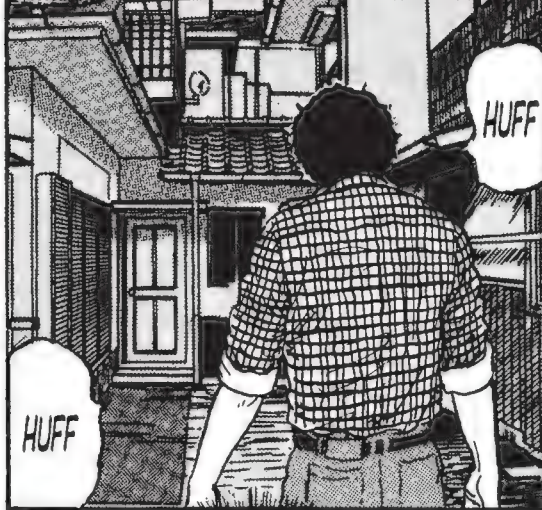
HUFF

HUFF



TUP

TUP

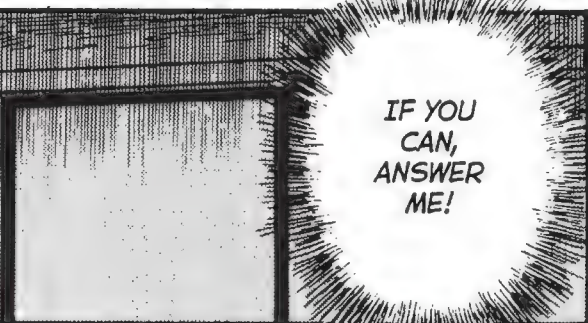


CAN YOU
HEAR
ME?



SHUICHI...
IT'S ME!

IT'S
ME, MR.
TORINO.



IF YOU
CAN,
ANSWER
ME!



THE
SAME
WAY
WE'RE
COMMUNI-
CATING
NOW.

I KNEW
RIGHT
AWAY...
I CAN
SENSE
YOUR
PRESENCE
LIKE A
BEACON.



HOW
DID YOU
KNOW
WHERE
I LIVE?



...I'VE
GOT
TO
KILL
YOU!



...THAT
IF I
WANT
THE
CREDIT
...

SOME-
THING IS
TELLING
ME...
SOME
ENTITY...



WHAT
DO
YOU
WANT
FROM
ME?

SO
YOU
FEEL
THE
RADIO
WAVES
TOO.



...TO KILL YOU
BEFORE YOU
CAN KILL ME.



SOME-
THING'S
BEEN
TELLING
ME...



I
WANT
THAT
GALAXY
!!

I'LL BE
FRANK!
I WANT YOU
TO
RELINQUISH
YOUR CLAIM
AS
DISCOVERER
OF THE
GALAXY!




I JUST
WANT TO
TALK.

I
DON'T
WANT
TO DO
THAT.



YOU
WANT IT,
IT'S
YOURS.

FINE.
I NEVER
WANTED TO HAVE
ANYTHING TO DO
WITH IT ANYWAY.



...THAT'S ONLY IF THE INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION SANCTIONS THE FIND...

YES... BUT WE BOTH KNOW...




SO I'M THE DISCOVERER?

THANK YOU! I KNEW YOU'D UNDERSTAND.




...UNTIL I FOUND IT...

NO ONE KNEW ABOUT IT FOR BILLIONS OF YEARS...



I'M QUITE SURE IT WILL! IT WASN'T DISCOVERED UNTIL NOW!




MR. TORINO LET ME USE HIS TELESCOPE. I HEARD HE'S THE ONE WHO DISCOVERED IT.

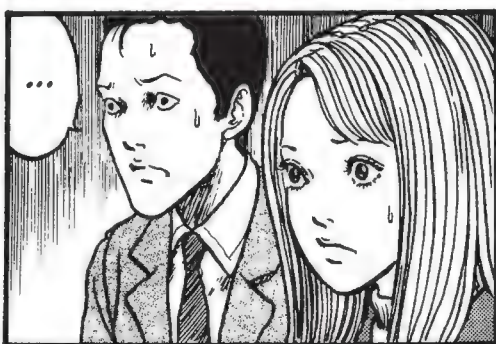
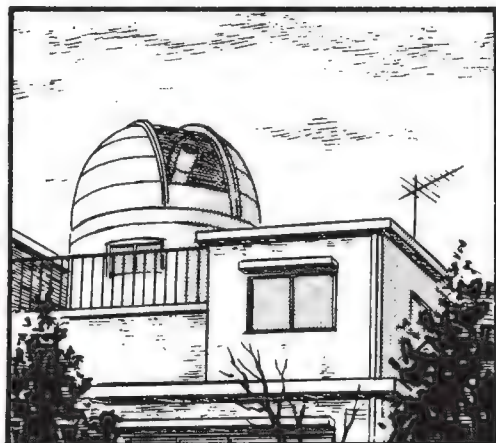
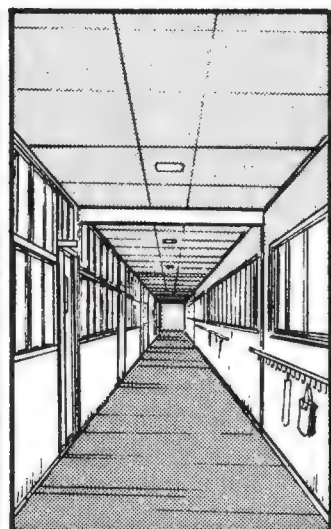
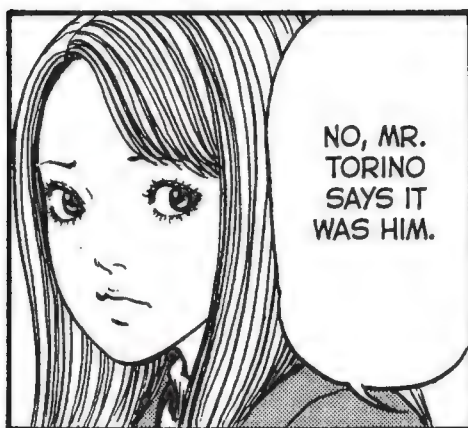
IT'S A MESMERIZING SIGHT...

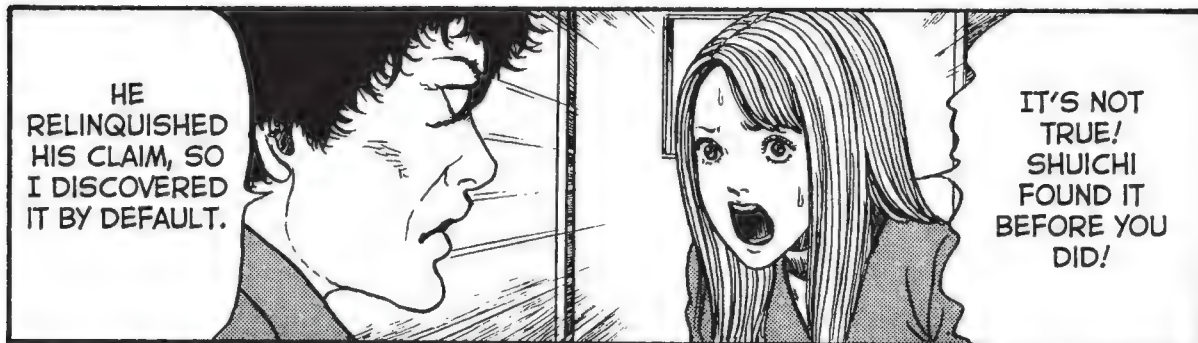
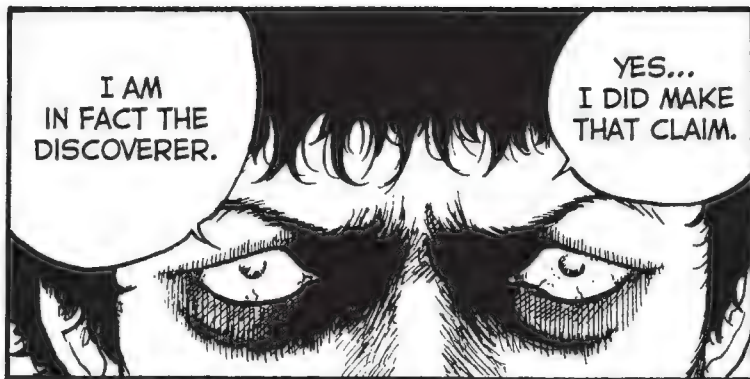
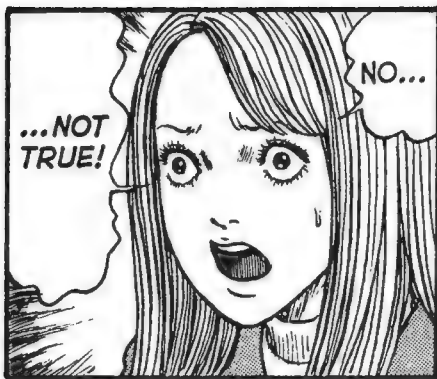


I SAW THAT NEW GALAXY! IT WAS AMAZING.



REALLY? I SAW IT TOO.





HEEHEEHEE



...I CAN
SEND RADIO
WAVES TOO!

AND THE
MOST AMAZ-
ING THING
IS...

THOSE RADIO
WAVES, THAT
RADIATION
FROM MILLIONS
OF LIGHT
YEARS AWAY,
IS BEING SENT
TO ME!



...BE-
CAUSE
I MYSELF
HAVE
RECEIVED
ITS
SIGNALS!

I
KNOW
THIS
...



THAT
GALAXY IS
MINE!

GET OUT!
I HAVE
NOTHING
MORE TO
SAY!

UH...
TORINO...



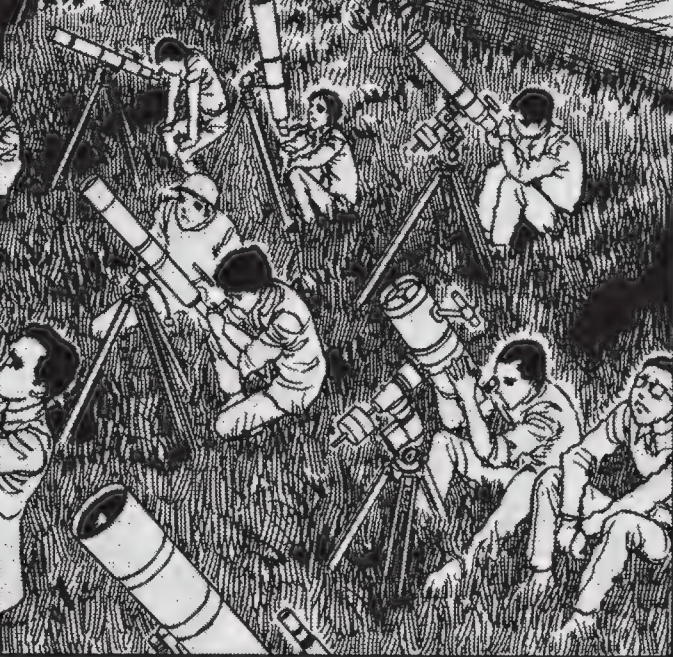
AND I WON'T
LET YOU TAKE
CREDIT
FROM
SHUICHI!



BY
DEFAULT
I'M THE
DISCOVER-
ER!
AFTER ALL,
I SAW IT
BEFORE
YOU DID!!

WAIT A
MINUTE!





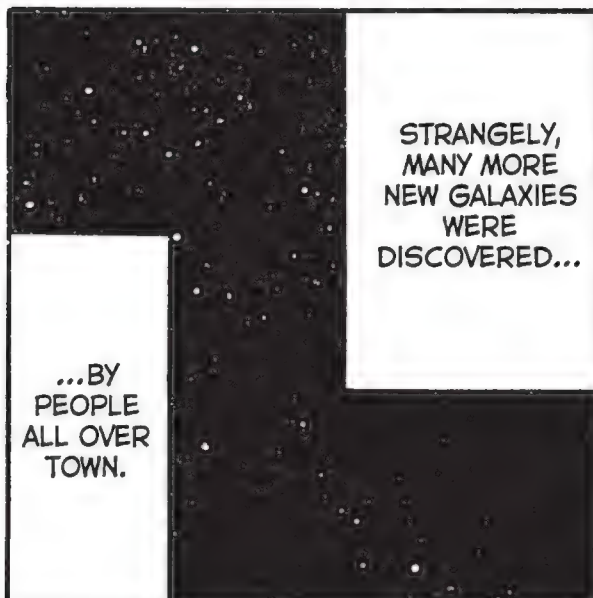
HEY,
YOU'RE
RIGHT.
I'VE NEVER
SEEN THIS
ON ANY
STAR
CHART.

YEAH,
ANOTHER
GALAXY.
IT'S NOT
THE ONE
IN THE
SERPENT
CONSTELLA-
TION.



HEY...
WHAT'S
THIS?!

DID YOU
FIND SOME-
THING?!



...BY
PEOPLE
ALL OVER
TOWN.

STRANGELY,
MANY MORE
NEW GALAXIES
WERE
DISCOVERED...



ANOTHER
DISCOV-
ERY?
LET'S GO
HOME AND
CHECK
OUR
BOOKS!

BEEN
OBSERV-
ING IT
FOR A
WHILE
NOW.

I'VE GOT
THE SAME
THING OVER
HERE.



UM...

UNH...



ONE
NIGHT
...



COULD
THESE
BE THE
RADIO
WAVES?

LIKE
VOICES
IN
STATIC
...



IT'S COME
OVER ME SO
SUDDENLY...
LIKE
SOMETHING'S
INVADING MY
THOUGHTS...

WHAT
IS THIS
FEEL-
ING?



YEAH?
WHERE'S
YOUR
PROOF?!

HEY!!
I WAS THE ONE
WHO FOUND THE
SPIRAL GALAXY
NEXT TO LEO
REGULUS!!

HM?!



WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?
THE GALAXY
NEXT TO
COMA
BERENICES
IS MINE!

I'M THE
ONE WHO
FOUND IT!

HUH?!



I'M
HEARING
PEOPLE
TALKING IN
MY HEAD!

YOU DAMN
THIEF!
YOU STOLE MY
DISCOVERY!

I'M GOING
TO KILL
YOU!

WH-WHAT
IS THIS?



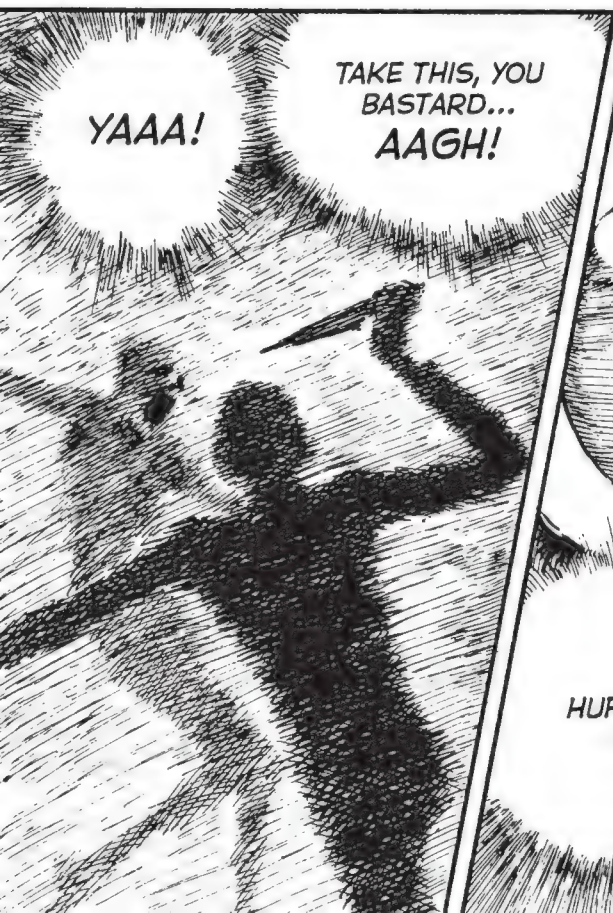
THE STARS
ARE TELLING
ME, KILL,
KILL...

LIAR!
THAT'S
WHAT
THEY
TOLD ME!



YOU'LL BE
DEAD IF YOU
SHOW YOUR
FACE AROUND
HERE!
I DARE YOU!

I'M ALREADY
HEADED
YOUR WAY.
YOU'LL
SEE...



YAAA!

TAKE THIS, YOU
BASTARD...
AAGH!



HUFF...
UFF...
GASP...
AHH...

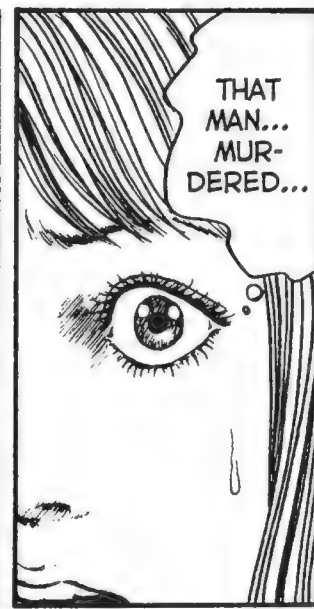
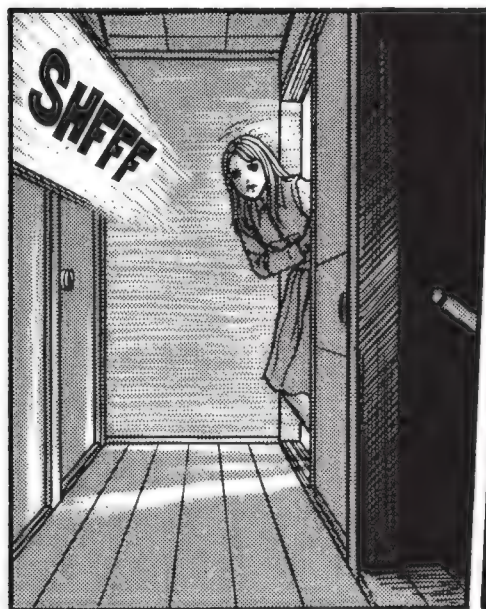
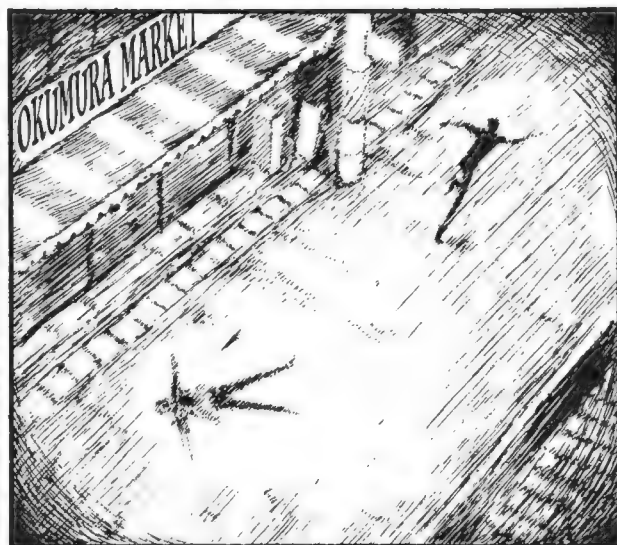
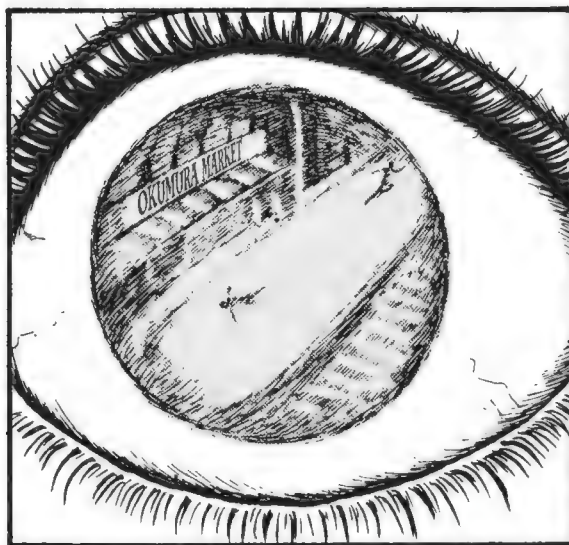
UFF...
HUFF...HUFF...
HUUH...



COME ON
THEN, YOU
BETTER BE
ARMED!

NOW I
SEE
YOU.

I'M COMING
CLOSER...
100 METERS...
90...80...





HUFF...
HUFF...

WELL, ISN'T
THAT HOW
WE'RE
TALKING
RIGHT NOW?

THIS IS SO
STRANGE...
CLAIRVOYANCE?
I WONDER IF
IT'S FROM THE
RADIO WAVES.

ME TOO!
IT JUST
APPEARED IN
MY HEAD, AND
THEN I CAME
HERE AND
THERE WAS
A CROWD.
I GUESS
EVERYONE
ELSE SAW IT
TOO.

YOU WON'T
BELIEVE THIS,
BUT...I SAW IT
ALL HAPPEN.



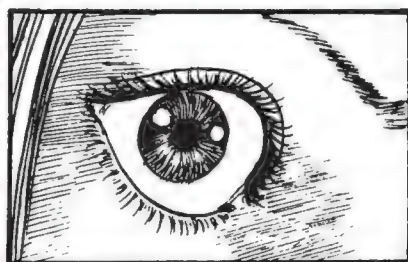
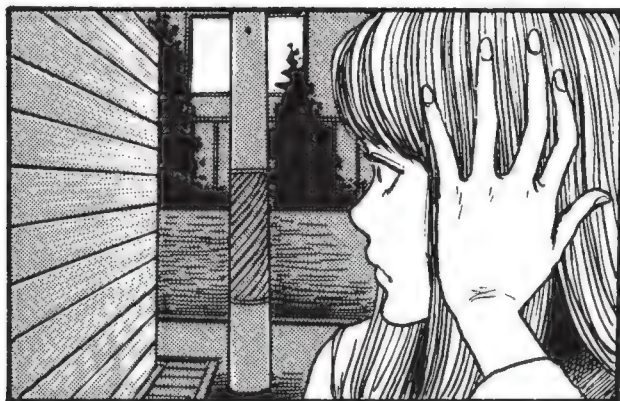
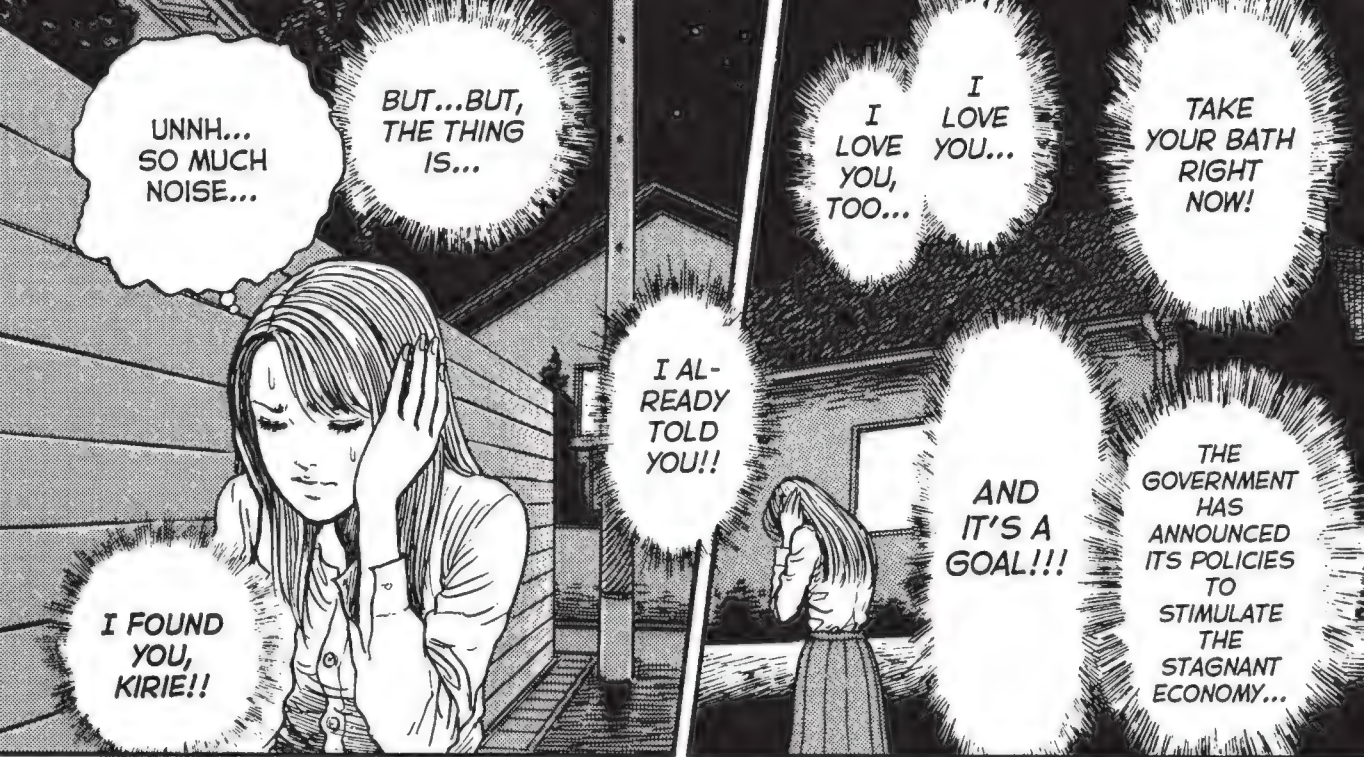
I MEAN,
I KEEP
HEARING
THESE
ARGUMENTS...
IN MY HEAD...
NIGHT AFTER
NIGHT!

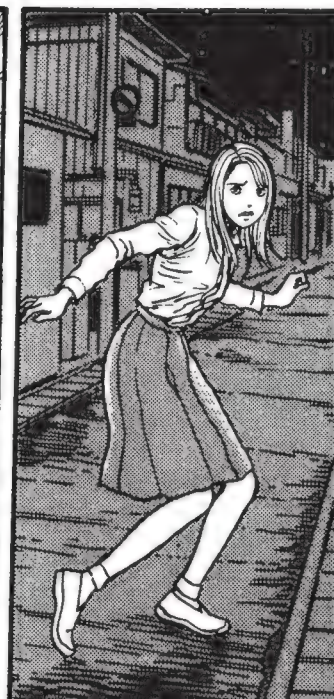
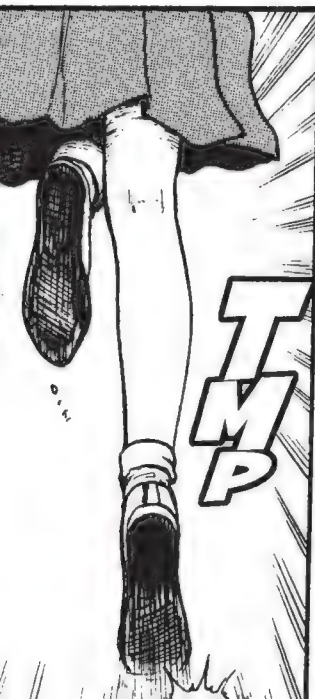
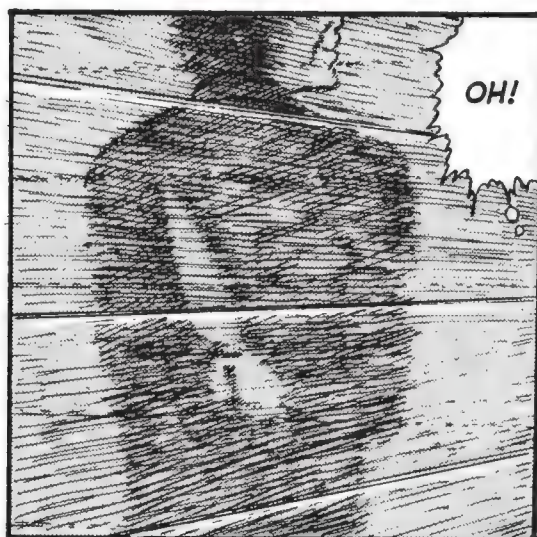
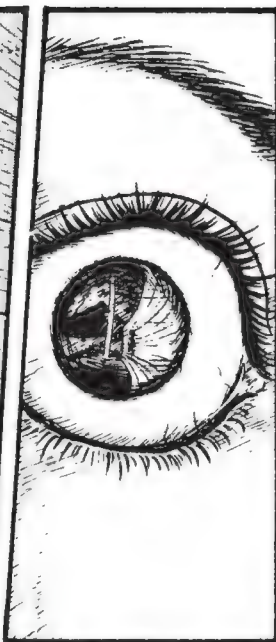
DOES
THIS MEAN
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS
MIGHT
HAPPEN
AGAIN?

YOU'RE RIGHT!
OUR LIPS
AREN'T EVEN
MOVING!

SO THE
SPIRAL
GALAX-
IES ARE
CAUSING
THIS
TOO?









TRUM



HUFF

HUFF



SOME-
BODY
HELP
ME!

HELP
ME!



STOP,
KIRIE!

YOU'RE IN
MY WAY!
I'M GOING
TO KILL YOU!



NO ONE WILL
EVEN KNOW
YOU'RE
BEING
KILLED!

IT'S A
FOUL
BALL!

THE
WHOLE
AREA IS
DROWNED
IN NOISE!

AHA HA HA!
THEY CAN'T
HEAR YOU!

HELP!

BRUSH
YOUR
TEETH
BEFORE
YOU GO
TO BED!

THEN
HOW
ABOUT
TOMORROW
?

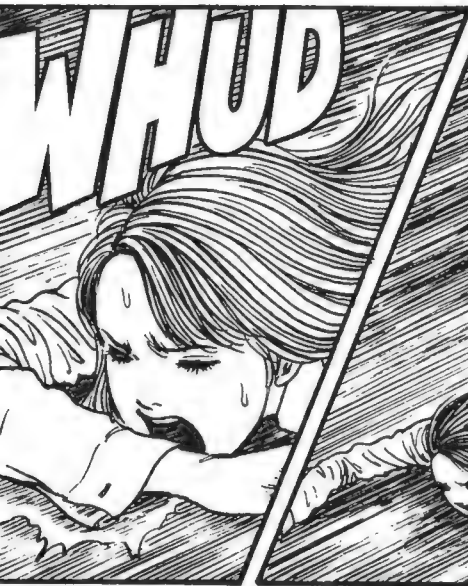


HA
HA
HA
HA!

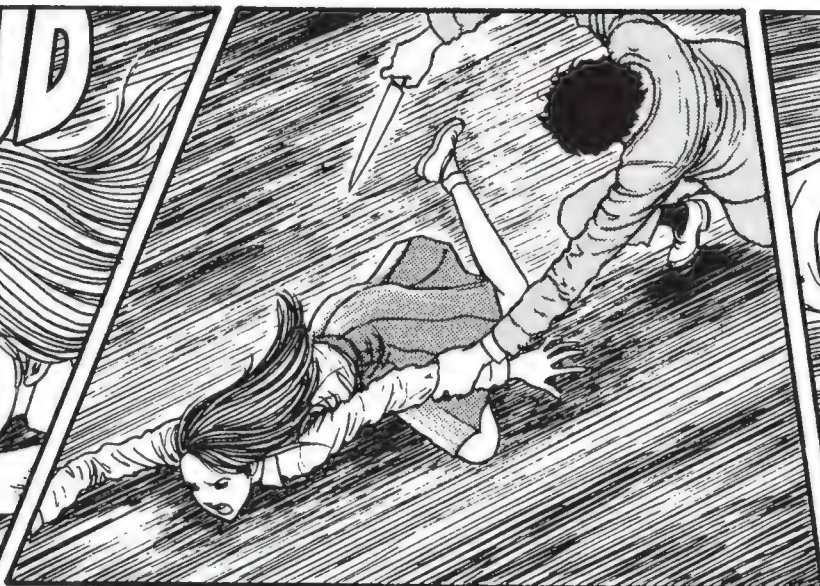
SOMEONE!
PLEASE
HELP ME!



HELP!
PLEASE!



WHUD



GRAB



HA HA
HA...

DIE!

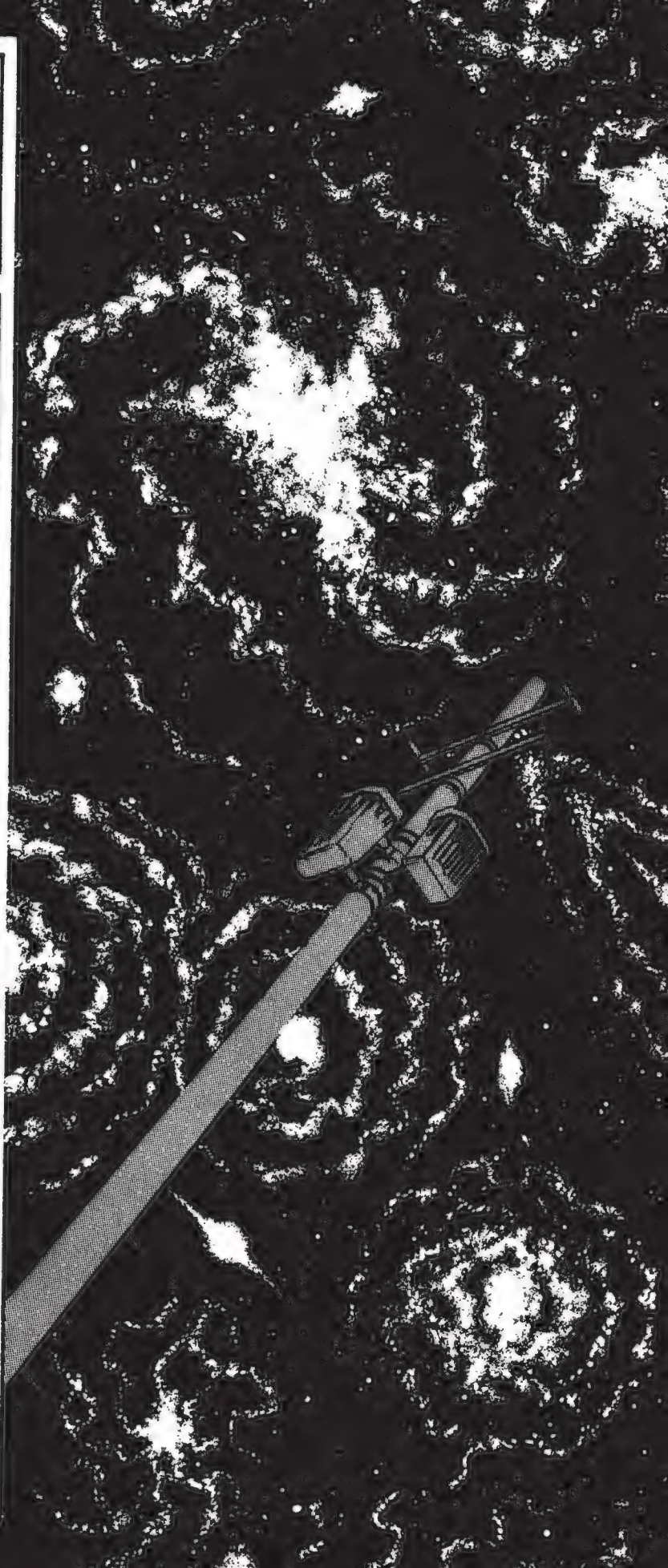
ONCE YOU'RE
DEAD, THE
GALAXY'S
MINE!

NOW IT'S
OVER!!



WHAT...?

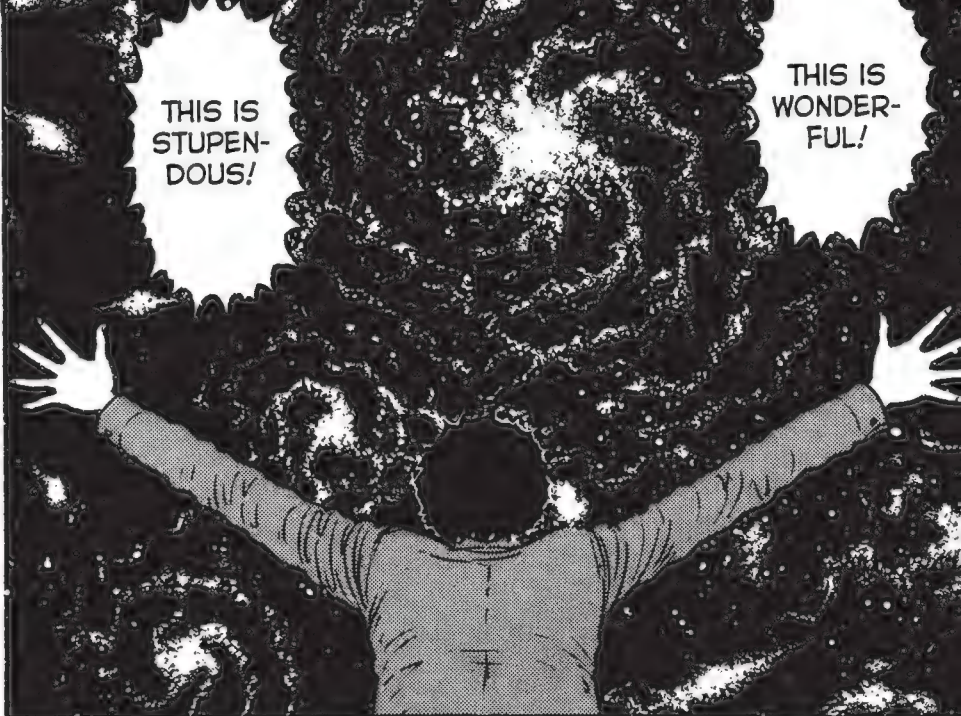






I WAS
THE
FIRST
HUMAN
TO SEE!

AND
I...
I SAW
IT
FIRST!



THIS IS
STUPEN-
DOUS!

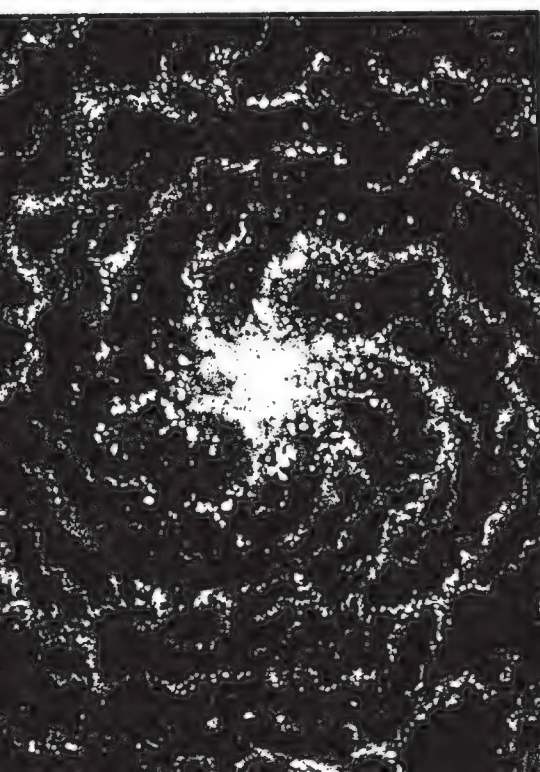
THIS IS
WONDER-
FUL!



IF IT'S "YES,"
SEND ME A
SIGNAL!
SEND ME ALL
OF THEM!
BEAM ME ALL
YOUR TRANS-
MISSIONS!



AM I
RIGHT?
ANSWER ME,
GALAXIES!



NOW!



TELL ME,
STARS!

ANSWER
ME!
NOW!

I-I
FEEL
IT!!

AHH
!

EEM

ZEE

ZEE EE EE EE

ZEE

AAH...

I FEEL
IT!!

GUGH~!

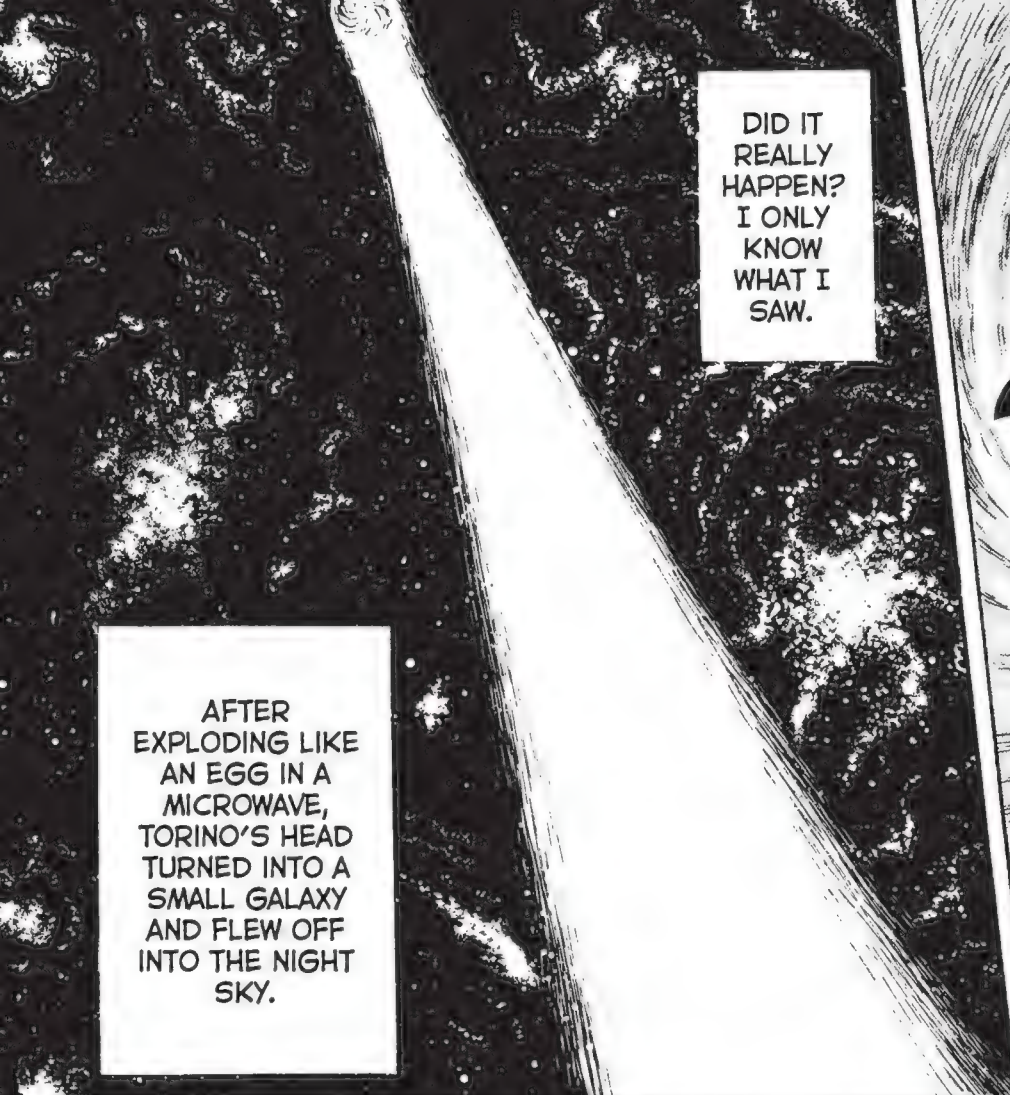
EEM

IT'S
SO
POWER-
FUL!



SHWAADAA





DID IT
REALLY
HAPPEN?
I ONLY
KNOW
WHAT I
SAW.

AFTER
EXPLODING LIKE
AN EGG IN A
MICROWAVE,
TORINO'S HEAD
TURNED INTO A
SMALL GALAXY
AND FLEW OFF
INTO THE NIGHT
SKY.

SH
W
O
O
O

ACCORDING TO THE
NATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL
OBSERVATORY'S
DATA ANALYSIS CENTER,
NONE OF THE NUMEROUS
GALAXY SIGHTINGS REPORTED
IN KUROUZU-CHO WERE
CONFIRMED.

THEY WERE NEVER
SEEN AGAIN...
BY ANYONE.

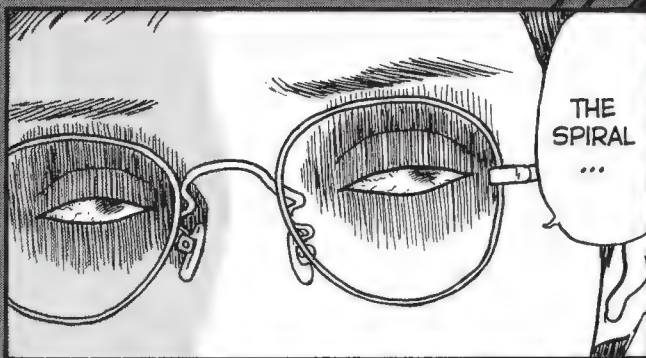
THE END











AFTERWORD



WITH THE MANGA *UZUMAKI*, I, JUNJI ITO, ATTEMPTED TO FIND AN ANSWER TO THE SECRETS OF THIS ENIGMATIC SHAPE.

SUCH A MYSTERIOUS PATTERN...



NEXT, I DECIDED TO READ ALL THE REFERENCE MATERIALS ABOUT SPIRALS THAT I COULD FIND.

TO BEGIN MY STUDIES, I SPENT HOURS STARING INTO ITS DEPTHS.

TO UNDERSTAND THE SPIRAL, ONE MUST CAREFULLY OBSERVE IT.

I ALWAYS ENDED UP FALLING ASLEEP PARTWAY THROUGH ...

I JUST ENDED UP FEELING DIZZY...



THE WATER
IN THE TUB
WOULD FORM
A WHIRLPOOL
AND DRAIN
AWAY...



I GUESS
THERE'S
NOTHING ELSE
TO DO BUT
ACTUALLY
MAKE SPIRALS
MYSELF.

SUSHI ROLLS,
MORIGUCHI PICKLES,
FIDDLEHEAD FERNS,
ZENMAI, TURBAN
SHELLS...

SOFT
ICE CREAM,
SPIRAL-SHAPED
COOKIES,
NEJIRINBO RICE
CANDY...
IT WAS ALL
DELICIOUS.



I STILL
DIDN'T
UNDERSTAND
MUCH, SO I
TOOK THE
NEXT STEP
OF EATING
SPIRALS.

ITO,
WHERE'S
THIS
MONTH'S
COMIC?!

My editor,
Nakaguma



AND SO...
AS A RESULT
OF MY
RESEARCHES,
THE ANSWER TO
THE ENIGMA IS
NEAR AT HAND.
SOON I WILL
REPORT MY
FINDINGS...
BUT IS THE
WORLD READY?

ALL THEY
DID WAS
LEAVE
BEHIND
ORANGE-
COLORED
FECES.

FINALLY,
I
RAISED
SNAILS.





I MEAN...
UM...
JUNJI ITO
MANGA
INC.

HELLO, THIS
IS SPIRAL
RESEARCH
LABORA-

AFTERWORD



RRRIIINNG

I'VE FOUND
SOMEONE WHO
KNOWS THE
SECRET OF
THE SPIRAL!

LISTEN!
THIS IS
BIG!
B-I-G!

WHAT?
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

ITO!
THIS IS
NAKAGUMA
FROM BIG
COMIC
SPIRITS!
I'VE GOT
INCREDIBLE
NEWS!

I'M NOT REALLY SURE.
ALL I KNOW IS IT'S
SOME GUY WHO LIVES
BY HIMSELF UP IN THE
MOUNTAINS OF G____
PREFECTURE!

WHAT?
SOMEONE WHO
KNOWS THE
SECRET OF THE
SPIRAL?
WHO IS IT?



K. MINAMI!
TAKE
CARE OF
THINGS
WHILE I'M
GONE!

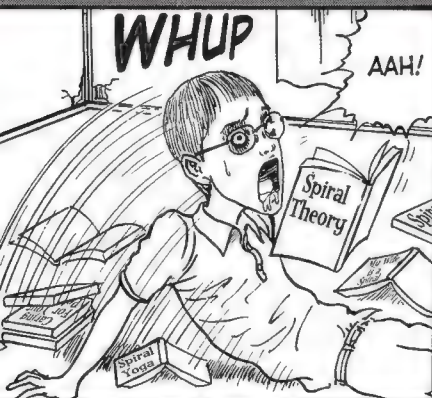
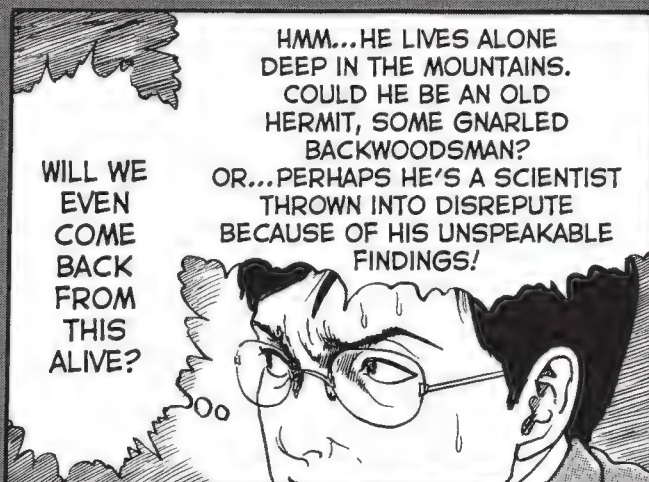
YES,
SIR!



YES!
SEE
YOU
IN G____
PREFEC-
TURE!

ITO!
LET'S
GO
MEET
HIM!

SLAM



THE
HORROR
...

bip
bip
bip

THE
HOR-
ROR...

AFTER WORD

ITO?
WHAT'S
GOING
ON!?

SLURP
SLURP

N-
NAKAGUMA?
I-I'M IN
TROUBLE...

BIG
COMIC
SPIRITS.
NAKA-
GUMA
SPEAK-
ING.

RING
RING

DON'T YOU
REMEMBER?
LAST
VOLUME?
THE TWO OF
US WENT UP
TO THE
MOUNTAINS
OF G_ PREFECTURE
AND MET THAT
MAD HERMIT?

"UZUMAKI-
SEN'NIN"?!
WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

THE SPIRAL
MASTER-
UZUMAKI-
SEN'NIN-
IS IN MY
HOUSE!

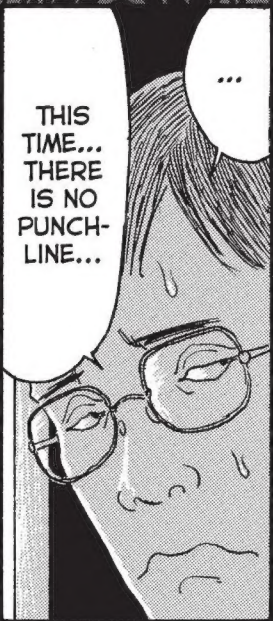
H-
HE'S
HERE!

CLACK

ITO...
STOP
KIDDING
AROUND.

THAT
WASN'T A
DREAM!
IT WAS
REAL!
A REAL
PUNCH-
LINE!

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?
THAT ENDED
WITH A
STUPID
"IT WAS
JUST A
DREAM!"
PUNCHLINE!



SO YOU WANT
TO KNOW THE
SECRET OF
THE SPIRAL,
DO YOU?
THAT'S
EASILY DONE!
GYEE HEE HEE!

THE END

A black and white manga-style illustration. In the foreground, a young child with short hair is lying down, looking up in awe and fear. The child's face is partially visible, showing wide eyes and an open mouth. In the background, several massive, thick tentacles with spiral patterns on their segments descend from the top of the frame. The tentacles are covered in smaller, spiral-shaped eyes or patterns. The overall style is detailed and dramatic, typical of horror manga art.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Junji Ito debuted as a horror manga artist in 1987 with the first story in his successful *Tomie* series. *Uzumaki*, drawn from 1998 to 1999, was adapted into a live-action movie, which was released in America by Viz Films and Tidepoint Pictures. Ito's influences include the classic manga artists Kazuo Umezu and Hideshi Hino, as well as authors Yasutaka Tsutsui and H.P. Lovecraft. Other works include *Gyo* (VIZ Media) and the *Museum of Terror* series.

UZUMAKI

UZUMAKI
Deluxe Edition

Story & Art by
JUNJI ITO

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by Junji ITO
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Original Japanese edition published by SHOGAKUKAN.

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Translation & English Adaptation/Yuji Oniki
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Susan Daigle-Leach
Editors/Jason Thompson, Alvin Lu (First Edition), Gary Leach (Signature Edition)

Deluxe Edition:
Design/Sam Elzway
Editor/Masumi Washington

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Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

First English edition published in 2002

Deluxe Edition
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, October 2013



www.viz.com



PARENTAL ADVISORY

UZUMAKI is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains mature themes and graphic violence.

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